



Criticizing Ben Franklin

Quips, Quotes & Quandaries

Ken Omar Eldib

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Introduction

This is an undeleted book which includes material that may or may not be in my other books... just not sure ☺ ken

Are we more like Greece the “birth place of democracy” or more like Rome, the birth place of imperial democracy. I think we started more like Greece, but we’ve become more like Rome. We are as arrogant as any nation on earth, we slaughtered the fleeing Iraqis on the highway of death, we have little respect for other world views, we believe that we are anointed and appointed by God and this kind of contemptuous attitude may lead to the demise of a great nation.

It’s arguable that some of the native tribes were barbaric, such as those that are said to have practiced human sacrifice in Mexico or elsewhere. So instead of giving the west an "F", maybe they deserve a slightly better grade.

If I lived in Rome, I would have opposed that empire too, or at least hopefully not been a jingo willing to excuse its numerous excesses.

You really want third world countries to advance? Why not quit selling them sophisticated weapons? Aren’t they likely to kill fewer people with stones and machetes than with bombs and missiles... although unfortunately, they do a pretty efficient job with those too.

I suppose the New Guineans are just "quaint" primitives minding their own business... and of course they have no WMDs. I see no outrage at their behavior, some think it humorous, but those women are treated outrageously and *have* no champion. Of course you’ve civilized them a bit, as I hear they no longer eat other people. Then there are the wars in the Congo and the genocide in Rwanda -- you decry the violence, but do little or nothing to save lives. Oil, resources, or religion seem to be the common denominator in determining who you will liberate and your "liberation" is almost always a very bloody affair with no guarantee of anything except death for them and profit for you.

Someone at Bible study, came up with the plan to clean an elderly women’s gutters

and everyone felt great afterwards. We had done our "random act of kindness."...but I found myself wondering if they were trying to make up for their rabid support of our jets and missiles that are killing strangers on the other side of the world? Somehow I don't think so -- they have the whole thing rationalized down to a "T." as we cleaned the gutters I heard the word awesome again, in fact I heard it a couple times that day. My Christian friends say "awesome" regularly -- it seems to sum up their feelings about a lot of things. Cleaning the gutters was a good thing to, but what if I'd rather help suffering Arab children? I could be arrested for "supporting terrorism" giving money to almost any Arab charity. It doesn't matter that wealthy people in the west give billions to crush these children and their families. It comes from taxpayers, oligarchs, moguls and millions of ordinary people who donate to the crusade to control the holy land and indeed the world.

One side plies you with drugs and alcohol, the other uses pitch-in dinners -- both assault your brain with persuasive arguments, implied threats and promises of glory, grandeur or revelations. They are all in it for themselves my friend, they are in it for their gain and you are their currency.

Judith Miller is just another foot soldier for the neocon and Zionist agenda. Her refusal to testify, which was made to look like an act of heroism, was actually quite helpful in getting Bush re-elected. She, Matt Miller and other operatives, insulated the Bush administration from indictments that would have come before the 2004 election, but instead occurred more harmlessly later on. These "agents", along with the Schlesinger controlled NY Times also were instrumental in getting the Iraq war started in the first place, with their aggressive, misleading stories about WMDs.

US foreign policies are currently influenced if not choreographed by; the Zionist/neocon lobby, which controls huge sums of money and monetary policy, and by fundamentalist Christian leaders, who can orchestrate, if not deliver most of the white Protestant vote. For their part -- the hapless democrats have yet to find direction or leadership, but this may change if the GOP, continues to flounder. There are of course a few dissenters, but they rarely speak up, because doing so opens them to the usual charges of anti-Semitism and lack of patriotism, which causes them to be marginalized and deemed irrelevant.

Why be surprised that the US has a jingoist government, press and school system? We were largely settled by people who came here for economic gain and were often prepared to do "whatever was necessary" to get ahead. That meant hard dangerous work as well as crushing the natives and exploiting the African slaves. Those who were appalled by these requirements -- sometimes moved on to other countries, were co-opted, joined the small protest movement or just looked the other way. We are left with a population that has been indoctrinated to believe in the manifest destiny of the American people and the ideological and moral superiority of our system. Although on the average, we're a bit gentler than our forefathers, we are still an aggressive, militaristic people likely to show up for any conflict, with the

most advanced weapons in the world.

Our boys are trained on the football fields and baseball diamonds that winning is everything and that physical prowess is the greatest of virtues. It reminds me of the quote attributed to Lord Wellington, that "the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton." Smart kids are considered nerds, while the top athletes are treated as privileged characters starting as early as grade school. The "lower" working class see the military as offering a great opportunity. This is no surprise, since they are as drawn to the military's promise of lifetime employment and to our culture of conspicuous consumption as anyone else. They re-enlist at high rates in the military and "serve proudly" as do the descendents of Scotch Irish Indian fighters, Irish civil war soldiers and Hessian mercenaries.

Yes, there truly is a price for freedom, but there is also a price for imperial hubris and for 5% of the worlds population to insist on consuming and ultimately controlling 25% of the worlds oil. It is fortunate for the war mongers that young people can be so easily convinced that they are the righteous "defenders of freedom" and not just religious and corporate mercenaries. Yes, we have toppled terrible regimes, but we have often seen then (and in some cases colluded) replaced with corrupt new leaders. We also, almost routinely, allow equally brutal regimes to go about their business unscathed, because they do not have the resources we crave or threaten our religious sensitivities.

R Religion
O Oil
I Israel

If the time comes when martial law is declared, I pray that the USA will prove to be something better than other countries, which have herded the populace up and sent them to work camps or worse. If things get out of hand here, will our freedoms be preserved or not? Will the government say that in order to maintain law and order they must incarcerate its own citizens?

Amnesty international has called the USA, the leading purveyor of torture in the world and said that those at the highest level should be held accountable. Abu Graif, Gitmo, Afghanistan and extreme rendition come to mind, as do the "investigations" that have led to punishment of only the lowest ranking soldiers and one female general. Rummy calls AI's statement a slap in the face of the U.S. soldier who has "liberated" more people than anyone in the world. There's some truth to what he says, maybe a lot of truth, but his statement is also a bellicose attempt to stifle the debate and allow the gang of fools to continue with extreme rendition or anything else they can get away with. How does one challenge Rummy without being called a traitor? The actions of the government can always be cloaked in unassailability as long as the troops are used to shield the old men in the war room.

You make me out to be anti-social, but I admit to nothing of the sort, at the most, I'm a bit reserved. Why should I be anxious to socialize with people who almost universally want to see my Arab cousins subjugated? Do you really expect me to enjoy hearing the usual rants about what monsters my people are and that our only mistake in Iraq and Afghanistan is that we're not killing enough of them? I can't tell you how many times I have heard that ...

I find it ironic, that the Arab world, besieged and occupied by the west for centuries, is almost universally characterized as violent and radical. This, despite the region having been under the jack studded boot of crusaders for so long. The percentage of Arabs anxious to kill or be killed for ideology is relatively low. Meanwhile in the U.S.A. I believe that a higher percentage of the population is willing to kill for their "beliefs", which they believe are unassailable. Of course the average American doesn't have to get involved, we have highly and start after supper trained surrogates, to drop the bombs. Hell, in a matter of seconds, the U.S.A. killed more than 100,000 Japanese civilians in Hiroshima... so tell me...who are the radicals? The U.S. is so militarily advanced, that it can impose it's will on anyone, anywhere, with a relatively small uniformed presence and far fewer casualties to it's soldiers than the "enemy" is likely to suffer... at least that's what we thought.

The military says that 5%? of soldiers say they have mental problems while active and after six months of being released, the number reportedly rises to 17%. Following years of being praised and called a hero for going around the world killing "bad guys", then coming home to a place where killing people is no longer a marketable skill, what do you expect? Societies that devote so much of their resources and wealth to killing foreigners and to glamorizing it in the media are indeed sick. Women seem to love men in uniforms and men love to wear them and act macho. Our cultural institutions officially preach the love of Jesus, but instead of prayer and peaceful pursuit of justice for all, we unleash bombs and missiles to secure our "national interests." I guess American's feel qualified to decide who their lord and savior would bomb?

Excuse me for indulging myself, but I like this song... I particularly liked the video:

Green Day - "Holiday" 2005

**"Zieg Heil to the president gasman
Bombs away is your punishment
Pulverize the Eiffel towers
Who criticize your government
Bang bang goes the broken glass and
Kill all the fags that don't agree
Trials by fire, setting fire
Is not a way that's meant for me
Just cause, just cause, because we're outlaws yeah!**

I beg to dream and differ from the hollow lies

**This is the dawning of the rest of our lives
I beg to dream and differ from the hollow lies..."**

Will the U.S. be rewarded for its actions in the ME or will it be punished? Over the centuries, we seem to have been rewarded for our military adventures... or at least we've benefited economically.

What does it mean that "the meek will inherit the earth?" It looks more and more as if women, who to *some* seem meek, are inheriting the earth. I prefer to interpret "meek" as meaning all peace loving people?

The stories of barbaric punishments in the ME, Pakistan, Afghanistan etc. are utterly repulsive. A while back, there was a story about a young woman who was gang raped as punishment for something her brother did. Is this an isolated incident by a rogue, vicious tribal chief or council, or is it the norm there? Either way, it should be stopped and those guilty should be held accountable. Please cousins, stop mistreating your people, especially your lovely women... I pray that God will guide you down a more gentle path and bless you for it.

The Sunnis remind me of fundamentalist Christians in general and the Wahabis remind me of the most extreme Christian. The Japanese remind me of the Mormons, both are somewhat cult like, but then aren't all religions and homogeneous societies? Then again, I consider Christianity, Judaism and Islam cult like as well... I wonder why of the tens of thousands of Japanese who come to the U.S. on business, so few stay permanently? Maybe it's difficult to break the hold of their native land, maybe it's because their homeland is prosperous, or because of government restrictions... obviously I don't know why it is?

I wonder if the TV programming in other nations is like that in the U.S? It's difficult to imagine another national media culture being so devoted to shows about killing people and news shows devoted to "informing us" who's a threat and who needs to be blown up. My God, between Wolf Blitzer, Aaron Brown, Oliver North, Bill O'Reilly, Crossfire, Hannity and Combs, Meet the Press, etc., all they seem to talk about are the numerous threats to the U.S.A. and what we should do about them. I guess with all this talk, there's bound to be plenty of support for the military actions that "keep us safe", or that at least result in keeping "foreigners" pissed off at us. Maybe the MIC (Military Industrial Complex) wants, or requires that in order to feel needed by the people. Actually we began working on a MIC the day the Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock... and we've never looked back. The few that couldn't hack it went to Canada or elsewhere.

You guys like the idea of crushing the Iraqi Sunnis, because it's in line with your goals and world view... democracy, cheap oil and the Judeo/Christian way of life. It doesn't matter that the original reason for busting down the doors were Iraq's supposed WMDs. You would have been quite happy to wage war for any reason the

boss gave you.

Excuse me if I'm not as enthusiastic about this "adventure" as you are, although I'll admit that Saddam was a tyrant and a murderer. There are, by the way, lots of murderous tyrants around, just not many with lots of oil and a grudge against Israel. Anyway, your goals and your world view are different than mine. I'm becoming a bit disillusioned with your current form of democracy, it's either my Muslim side, or your abandonment of the Constitution. You seem willing to accept the beehive, nanny state, while I feel quite stifled by it... maybe I just need more practice?

Iraq may end up aligned more with Iran than with Syria and presumably the Neocons were aware of this possibility from the start. Did they deem it acceptable and preferable to the status quo? Perhaps the prospect was seen as just another avenue of dividing and conquering the Muslim world and giving the west even more time to prepare for whatever the future might hold.

Term limits for the president and four year terms, would be a good "check and balance" on the two crime syndicates that run the country. It may limit at least *slightly* the amount of mischief the gang of thieves in power can commit.

These presidents, mullahs, defense ministers, insurgents and soldiers in uniform... (yes soldiers in uniform) are doing what they think is best, but they're killing a lot of innocent people in the process. Is this really the best way to solve our problems?

The president tells us that we're "all in this together... we're a team, stay on course", I think it's mostly based on lies, propaganda and double speak. It's no surprise the extremist religious leaders are on board and enthusiastically doing their part... after all they're the best at getting the people to believe stories and play follow the leader. Not that the church doesn't do some good work along the way... but it reminds me of this quote: As much as I love America's; mountains, prairies, forests, coastlines, deserts, cities and people, that pales with my love for the principles of; freedom, individual rights and equality, which I hope can be preserved.

At some point, I hope that American men turn just a little bit "Muslim" and Muslims turn a little bit American and that a proper balance is found in both societies. The Arab world has oppressed its women and needs to give them equality, but it should not give them *control* -- meanwhile American men need to stop enforcing laws that erode their property and child custody rights. I hope that we move in the direction of a more balanced system where everyone has full rights to the fruit of their labor and equal rights to raising and sharing custody of their children.

Is America the greatest country in the world? Possibly...but I think many countries are eligible to enter the competition for that title. The USA has many good points,

but it also is beset by problems and has made serious historical mis-steps. It has a huge violent crime rate, sexual predators molesting and abducting children at record numbers, a huge prison population, violence on TV, violent video games marketed to teenagers, a history of slavery and genocide of its native people. Maybe that's why so many of us crow about how great we are... it makes us feel better. It seems that many of the loudest crows are people that have never been to another country.

I'm half Arab and rejoice in that, although I'm opposed to a number of things being done by Arabs. I'm also half American and rejoice in that equally, although I am also not proud of some of the things American's have done. Most of my immediate family on both sides, has been somewhat non-observant of their religious heritage and I think they are mostly agnostic. I believe strongly in God, although I will admit to periods of doubt. Despite this, I won't shrink in saying that I truly believe that I am every bit as spiritual as people in the "national corporate churches." These people agitate for changes that benefit their world view and claim to have a direct line to God. They pray and bray quite loudly and claim that the rest of us are illegitimate and damned, but I find little to be attracted to, in their grandiose, prosperity based religions.

What if all of our soldiers defected to Canada and all of theirs did as well? Does that mean that the old men and women who clamor for war would have to populate the battle field? Alas, there is an unlimited supply of young people who are eager to shed their brothers blood.

Simply calling someone an anti-Semite, discredits and marginalizes them... whether or not their "point" has any validity might never be examined.

If America is going to be the world police and fight to extend democracy around the world, it might make some sense to go after dictators in the middle-east first. After all, they have the capacity and possibly some intent to meddle in the affairs of other countries. The decision seems to have been made that tyrants elsewhere around the world, can be dealt with later. There also seem to be practical reasons to deal with the Muslims first... you see them as a threat to; Israel and Christianity and they have lots of oil that you would like to get your hands on.

Somehow, we "learn" that "foreign" cultures are by definition "lesser" than American/Anglo/Western culture. The Middle East has been on fix war footing for 300 years, since the days of Napoleon's invasion of Egypt, followed by similar invasions by Britain, Germany, Italy, France, the Zionists and America. Do you really expect these countries to advance socially and democratically when they are constantly under occupation and what amounts to marshal law? Maybe they wouldn't have progressed in the direction you want -- anyway, but I don't think the west's adventurism has helped. The west seems constantly to be on the lookout for disaffected opposition parties who are willing to work with them to "fix" these countries. This usually leads to further problems in the region, instead of to

improving things.

What is so great about “democratic societies”, when the major thing they agree on and vote en-mass for, is foreign adventurism? Manifest destiny seems to be one of the great threads uniting the west. The West is better, the West is Christian, you can’t stop the West... the West has the right and the might to “fix” or to destroy you... the choice is yours -- PS. I am being facetious. Historically, a great many Westerners have voted to intervene in other countries affairs. I think westerners feel morally superior to others and "chosen" to straighten out, convert and save the "heathens", or at least gain access to oil, timber, minerals or whatever else the "wretches have. Meanwhile in the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan and elsewhere, millions die at the hands of tyrannical regimes or other murderers and the West does very little... either there's not enough oil, no religious ax to grind, or something else? I don’t think it’s just because the people of those countries are black, because America seems at least as racist against Arabs as against negroes.

I keep hearing that human morality only makes sense if there’s a God. Otherwise, you say, man has no reason not to pillage and plunder. I believe in God, but I find such logic ridiculous. There are plenty of reasons to follow the golden rule regardless of one’s theology or lack of it. Chaos, anarchy and war, are obviously bad for everyone in society (except for a few profiteers.) In fact war is only “beneficial” to a few people for a short time after which the tables usually turn and the "benefits" reverse themselves. I think the argument that morality only makes sense if there’s a God, is a red herring introduced to the debate to allow certain people to falsely claim the moral high ground, even as they employ violence to achieve their desires.

A while back, the news reported that a Pakistani woman had her feet cut off, because her relatives thought she was promiscuous. I wish that, those responsible would get very long prison terms for handing down such a vicious and arbitrary sentence. Will it take -- or is it even possible for outside forces to reform such a barbaric legal system? I don't know the answer to that, but I think it would be a heck of a lot better if the countries that are afflicted with such cruel traditions reform themselves.

The west can also change for the better, after all, we are also afflicted with a major problem of violence against women and children. Ours may not be sanctioned the same way by society, none the less, it occurs with great regularity. Does that mean that ordinary citizens or powerful people don’t care? Since we have major problems like this at home, why don't we use our vast resources to cure our own ills and let others see us as a shining example, instead of a hegemonious bully. Our “solution” has been to erode men’s legal status, which I believe has not helped curb domestic violence and may in fact be increasing it, as people become angrier and more irrational when they feel they have been abused by the legal system.

I keep hearing, “we can’t let these people, these terrorists win”, but what would

have been wrong with influencing the Middle East by example instead of by shedding blood? For hundreds of years, the west has been involved in weapons sales, intrigue, invasion, occupation and installation of puppet regimes. It's been easy to find dissidents who will ask us to intervene on their behalf and we have been happy to do so. It's been a convenient excuse for meddling and it's been hugely profitable for the west as well. Now the U.S. has finally invaded in earnest, killing tens of thousands of people. Our "leaders" are gambling that the pay-off will be enormous, if we install compliant governments throughout the region and maintain military bases through out the Middle East to quell any dissent.

"I care not what puppet is placed on the throne of England to rule the Empire, ... The man that controls Britain's money supply controls the British Empire. And I control the money supply." ... -Baron Nathan Mayer de Rothschild (1777-1836 .) Personally I don't see any reason to have to explain this quotation...

I often see compassionate stories about Americans, who have been victims of terrorism or the Iraq war. What these people have experienced, is sad, heart wrenching and tragic, but what about Iraqis who have suffered similar tragedies in far greater numbers? They are human, and loved their deceased family members every bit as much as American's do. They have been burned and maimed in far greater numbers than our people have. I hear very little about them and when they are mentioned, the carnage is usually blamed on "terrorists and insurgents."

Our government is loathe to take responsibility for the Iraqis killed directly or indirectly by our "liberation"... possibly as many as 655,000 Iraqis had been killed as of October 2006 according to some reports. That's not even to mention how many times I've heard "good salt of the earth Americans" come out and say thing like the only thing we're doing wrong is that we're not killing enough of them. Doesn't anyone believe what the pastor says on Sunday about reaping what we sow?

The premise of news coverage everywhere, seems to be to disseminate and promote an agenda, be it just or not... but of course everyone claims there agenda is "the" just one. It seems that the news, media and entertainment are controlled to a considerable extent where ever you go and ours seems to be subject to greater manipulation all the time. News outlets such as NPR and on one side and FOX news on the other, claim they are fair and balanced, but it's only by watching and comparing various outlets to each other, that one can get accurate coverage. Even so, every news outlet in the world has some bias, no matter what the advertisement say. Iraq certainly had a censored and corrupt media under Saddam and ours is much better, but it is still under the control of special interests groups... just follow the money.

Even the English language supports a biased Anglo/American view of the world, as might other languages that I don't speak. The Neocon and Zionist pundits can be Anti-Arab without being called racists. In English, the words Anti-Arab carry very little clout, compared to the words Anti-Semitic. Anti-Arab bias is so deeply rooted

in American culture, that any claim that something is Anti-Arab, is not taken very seriously. Contrast that with the word “anti-Semite”, which to most people immediately brings to mind Nazis and Arab terrorists. Languages seem to evolve or be designed to promote and facilitate the views of the dominant culture. To a great degree those in control, control the use and development of their language. Languages are usually pro-establishment and anti, “the enemy”, whoever that is. Anti-Arab neo-cons tend to sound measured and reasonable in their attacks on the Arab people, while pro-Arab voices are deemed fanatic and cruel... the dominant cultural paradigm is against them.

Simply calling someone an anti-Semite, discredits and marginalizes them... whether or not their “point” has any validity might never be examined.

You have stolen peoples land time after time, sometimes they mount a vigorous defense and sometimes they don't. The most radical Muslims, have taken the fight to your shores, something you have not often seen. You have no concern for your crimes, in fact you won't admit to even the slightest possibility that you have wronged the Arabs. You emphasize that only “they” have committed crimes against and you bomb them without mercy... yet your book commands that “thou shalt not kill.” That commandment is but a very minor inconvenience, as it is rationalized, explained away and “put into the proper context”, by your politicians and clergymen. You never admit to being invaders and occupiers, after all, you can always point to locals, who have invited you in to their country. In there countries at large, they are often called collaborators and opportunists and you reward them well for their efforts. If you were sincere in your nation building, you would be straightening out Africa as well. In your “wisdom”, you point to the need to use a more measured approach on the dark continent, where horrible atrocities against women and children occur there on a daily basis. There are atrocities done there that would be considered barbaric even by the worst regimes in the Middle East, yet those are the nations that you bomb and steal from... because they have oil and they will not submit to you.

This all points to your Middle East wars as being fueled by religious ideology and greed for oil. The Brits who so loudly proclaim their democratic tradition, were major profiteers from African slave trade, fought a war to allow their drug lords to addict millions of Chinese to Opium and have fought numerous colonial wars to enrich themselves with much of the worlds resources and wealth. Did you think the chickens would never come home to roost? Do you expect that you will never reap what you have sown? Are you alone immune from cosmic justice?

Democracy is the best system for the majority, but not necessarily for the minority, unless it has unassailable checks, balances and guarantees of absolute and irrevocable individual rights. I don't believe that is even remotely the case in our country at this time.

Obviously it's more difficult to do something great than to do nothing or do

something average ... that shouldn't stop us from trying.

I complain about our policies in the Middle East and you say, "okay, then what should we do?" I think we should give the Palestinians back their country, get the hell out of the Middle East and stop trying to change Islam into our Poodle. Quite unrealistic isn't it? On the other hand, if our country was occupied and your religion under attack, would you not demand the invaders to leave, return your land and stop assailing your religion?

Israeli is always pointed out as the only democracy in the Middle East... as it has a number of parties vying for power, such as Likud, Labor and other smaller parties. There is one unifying factor that all share... utter determination to remain in control of the land they have conquered. They differ only in their methods of achieving that goal... Likud tends towards expansionist Zionism and Labor towards "peaceful" coexistence. In the final analysis it seems, both parties are quite willing to use WMDs against their neighbors.

You call me cowardly and say I won't stand up for anything. I say I will step outside with any man my size, age, level of education, degree of arthritis, comparable reflex speed, who wears glasses and has other frailties like me... but I'm not inclined to shoot or blow people up. Okay, so I'm exaggerating! The point is, I'd rather discuss and debate than make war, but I would prefer to step outside and settle things man to man, than to drag two countries into ruinous wars. Of course this may be impossible, as most people see this as impractical and would say that nothing would be solved. How about having the war fought by people over sixty, or fifty, or forty? Still no good you say, there would be nothing accomplished, because there would still be plenty of young people left to continue the war even after the geriatric soldiers were "exhausted."

Hmm...? Okay, what about.... Anyway the problem is that there are always war mongers and profiteers who can make a convincing case for war and plenty of unemployed, underemployed and impressionable young people raging with testosterone, who are quite willing to make war for a few bucks and a "good cause." There are usually better ways to change society, so that maybe the winners are not the profiteers.

Funny how one person might look at the July 2005 cover of Time Magazine with Bush and Karl Rove on it and think, "these men are surely criminals" and another will look at it and say, "what very nice men."

"Why we fight?" I think that was the name of a film or series during WWII that explained why we were fighting. Now that question is also relevant. We do it so that your Mom can buy more shoes, your Dad can watch more sports and the rich can be richer... Meanwhile young soldiers and innocent civilians keep dying and the president says, go shopping, buy, consume... it will help the cause... maybe he's right!

The crazy Wahabbis say kill the infidels, extremist Christians say if you don't join us, you're going to hell. Neither group is anything more than a bunch of brainwashed potential murderers. Both sides accept the killing and or "collateral damage" deaths of innocents. Every race has its share of mad dogs, zealots and murderous fanatics. Are their violent actions triggered by real grievances and issues, or just greed and sick ideology? If so, these things should be addressed, with reason, instead of violence.

I am not saying negotiate with terrorists, I'm suggesting that you fairly, honestly and in an unbiased manner, address the root causes and basic issues behind terrorism... Israel, religion and our thirst for oil.

I'm not for violence or revolution, that's the last thing I want... too many innocents are dying already. But if there's no reform terrible things may come to pass anyway. We can all get along, but there's no guarantee... especially if we start from positions such as we are superior, or we are chosen, or God is on our side only or your side is damned or satanic.

My countrymen and women seem to have absolutely no desire or intent to address the root cause of the USA's problems with the Middle East countries. Why would you, after all there's only one solution that's satisfactory with you... and that's subjugation of the natives and supremacy of the Zionists and crusaders. You have aided and abetted them from day one, in their occupation and theft of Palestine and you will never work to right this wrong... never. What is wrong with one person, one vote, or to make the holy land one nation under the one God that the Jews and Arabs believe in, but not a nation under one religion?

You will be able to control the holy land as long as you are stronger than the Muslim people and your plan seems to be to divide them and keep them perpetually weak and fighting each other. As long as you do this, you will be the masters of Jerusalem, a city you have taken by force each time you have controlled it. If there is no justice, there will be no peace, so you will have conflict and you will have to be bullies and tyrants, you also reportedly have the nuclear option, which you are quite willing to use, if that's what it takes to get your way.

Fredrick Douglas, hated slavery, but loved America... that is how some of us feel today about the current administration.

The Middle East has been settled, populated and fought over, longer than any other place on earth, except for sub-Saharan Africa. Since the Middle East has relatively little arable land, competition for the good land has been fierce. It has breed people who are hospitable, but also on guard and who's societies are keen to hold on to their land. The good land in the Middle East can be spectacular, Eden like and therefore coveted by others.

If two wrongs don't make a right, then how many does it take? Most of us can figure out that even a million wrongs don't make a right, so why don't we ever learn? For someone to say that God promised your land to him, means that he is likely to consider you subhuman, even goy and you should be prepared to resist, because he will surely treat you like an animal.

For the Palestinians and the Arab dissidents in general, I think that massive Gandhi like, peaceful sit-ins or economic boycotts might yield better results than suicide bombings. For example, they could demonstrate for one person, one vote in the whole of occupied Palestine. After all, they are dealing with rational, peace loving Americans, British and Israelis aren't they? Of course mine is not the opinion that matters...

I'm against bombings, be it by suicide or by F-16s, but neither type surprises me. The people doing the bombing for both sides are basically brainwashed, robotic killers. You call the Arabs "terrorists" and the coalition soldiers heroes, but I find the distinction a somewhat moot point. I think they are all wrong, misguided and part of the problem, not part of the solution. Is a man wearing state of the art body armor from head to toe, driving a heavily armed "Stryker" vehicle any more heroic than a man with an AK-47 or grenade launcher in tennis shoes, with no body armor? I don't necessarily think so... It's all part of the brainwashing and indoctrination we receive from their masters. One side swears it is liberating people, the other swears it is defending their land... both are a little right and a lot wrong. If I dare to be critical, I am branded a traitor and you turn your anger on me. If you have your way, it will only be a matter of time before my right to speak is entirely eliminated. As it is, you have already largely muzzled me, since there are many things I am afraid to discuss in public.

If the Bathiits hadn't been so cruel when they were in power, their insurgency would be enjoying much more international support now. I have never heard a reasonable explanation for the terrible excesses they committed while they were in control of Iraq.

In the Middle East, will you conquer the people, liberate them, or eventually just get the hell out and leave them to their own devices?

Snipers going to other countries... hiding on rooftops and shooting the locals... hmmm? Oh, I forgot, they are killing terrorists.

Is the Iraqi insurgency grass roots? Maybe it is, maybe it isn't or maybe it depends on if you're in a Sunni, Kurd or Shiite area. In our own American Revolution, we outlasted the Brits with about 50% of the Americans supporting the revolution, while others were indifferent or even outright Tories.

I'm against the war and believe there are even worse offenders of human rights than the Bathists in Iraq and that you are attacking Iraq for oil and Zion. You say that I am a hypocrite, since I drive a large SUV, so I should be among the last ones to complain and raise that objection. Some of you say I should drive a small car if I'm going to complain about foreign policy as it relates to oil... even as you say that oil has nothing to do with it. Maybe I shouldn't have bought the SUV, but I did and it makes little economic sense to me to trade it in before its time. I will pay the market price or more for gasoline, if doing so will prevent war and when I can no longer afford gas, I will stop driving my SUV. You want to make us all complicit in the criminal invasion of Iraq and offer us no choice, but to support your murderous bomber jets, tanks and assault vehicles with our tax dollars... if we refuse we can be targeted by the IRS and the rest of your great society.

Terrorism is just another sick military strategy for people to get their way, just as fleets of bombers and cruise missiles are. I say "just another", because although horrific and indiscriminate, I think the vile terrorists have killed far fewer civilians than the vile techno-militarists have. The terrorists have also never achieved their goals to the extent that the techno-militarists have. Lets hope they never do and I hope the techno's never achieve their ultimate goals.

Civil disobedience... well organized confusion to interrupt the activities of the oppressors, without committing violence. Gandhi instructed his followers to create the greatest negative effect on their British invaders without breaking the laws...it worked for India.

You say you will defend anyone's right to say anything... like Ben Franklin recommended. I wonder if you would allow Muslim clerics to call for violent Jihad against your country? In England they are now enacting laws that would make such speech punishable by deportation. What would you have us do here, if things reach that point? Are you as firm on the subject as you seem, or is tolerance selective? Either way, it's understandable, since none of us want to live in a society where buses and trains can blow up and kill the innocent.

You say you would defend everyone's right to say whatever they want. What about Mullah's inciting violence during their Friday speech at the mosque? In the UK, they will now deport such people. It would be nice if we lived in a world where people ignored such speech, be it from the mosque, the church or anywhere else and be it aggressive in tone, or sweet sounding... what if they gave a war and nobody came?

A while back, the gang from Fox and Friends was on Sixth Ave. handing out bracelets and bragging about how much they love our military. Of course they do, their neocon friends, including Fox News owner Rupert Murdoch, *may* have been instrumental in getting the military to fight for their cause. It seems that my countrymen believe a crusade is what's best for America... time will tell. Bush, his "big oil" buddies and Carlisle group cronies are enriching themselves while the

American people are paying more for gasoline than ever. I will hazard to guess that the American people were more interested in cheaper gasoline, than democracy for the Iraqis. I meet a lot more people that profess to hate Arabs than love them... it's been that way for as long as I can remember. It's no surprise that many "foreigners" think America is hypocritical... after all, what is the typical "patriots" response to any perceived threat? It's bomb the hell out of them!

As an Arab American, do I have the right to be highly critical of Israel? I think I have as much right as anyone, but that doesn't mean that being critical is productive. I'm just more likely to be critical, because I feel that people I am related to are being wronged. There must be a better way to communicate, arbitrate and negotiate. If I simply ask questions or raise issues and will you consider answering or discussing them with me... or have I already poisoned the well?

When you consider yourself "chosen", it's easier to accept the genocide of those who you do not consider chosen. Listening to Kissinger discussing Vietnam and Iraq on TV, makes me believe that he considers himself chosen and others to be goyim. Kissinger express no qualms about using total war to achieve his objectives. Does he think that what he believes, is sanctified and that crushing "radical" Islam is "job one" for the "civilized world." I think his goal is, as it always has been, strengthening Israel and weakening the Muslim world. Funny, thought that by late 2006, he was speaking out of the other side of his mouth... at least in regards to the wisdom of the Iraq war and the chances of a military victory. In my opinion he has always been a foreign asset, just like the man interviewing him this day, Wolf Blitzer aka Zev Barak.

Kissinger goes on that he is for, or at the very least not against, military strikes on Iran, to stop them from developing nukes. Maybe he's right, time will tell, but it demonstrates once again that he will do absolutely anything to get his way. Regardless of who we bomb, the nuclear genie is out of the bottle and it may only be a matter of time before that abomination is once again used on innocents. Bombing anyone that is working on nukes may work for a while, but it is less likely to keep us safe than treating other nations with equal respect and refuting the policy of being world policeman.

Steve? Rose on Imus in the Morning relates something said or written by an Israeli politician who had been in a Soviet gulag. He says the world is not divided between Arab and Jewish countries or Christian and Muslim societies etc. He says it's divided between free societies and fear societies. In the fear societies, the people are used by their leaders and are afraid to speak out. I agree to some extent with this assessment, but would point out that it is an over simplification. Rose implied that the politician was a noble man, while at the same time reporting that the man had resigned from his position to protest the Israelis withdrawing from the Gaza strip. To you that means nothing, to me it's evidence that the politician was nothing more

than a man who was oppressed by the Soviets, yet now seeks to oppress the Palestinians.

The politician is in my opinion, only partially right and wholly a hypocrite... after all, he decries “fear societies”, but does not see that in occupied Gaza, which he wanted to keep, the people are in a fear society that he has helped perpetuate. He apparently had no qualms about the Israelis using whatever means they want, to crush the Palestinians, who are the historical residents of that land. I agree that there are fear states, they exist all over the place, but just about everywhere else, there is usually a portion of the population of “free societies” who live in a state of fear and won’t speak out. Because of our designs for worldwide domination, our intent to guarantee the success of Zionism and subjugation of Muslims, the entire world is drifting closer to a fear world everyday. Oh... did mention that we are being asked by the Israelis to pay \$ 2.2 billion to finance the withdrawal of the Zionist settlers from Gaza? That works out to \$ 1 million per Jewish settler who is made to leave... some of that is for security, such as new measures to subjugate the Palestinians and the rest is to compensate the settler, who will receive new homes elsewhere in occupied Palestine as well as cash payments.

We have our own madras’s they are the extremist Christian schools that have sprouted up by the hundreds, or thousands all over the country... although public schools, also occasionally fit into this category. I doubt that American “Madras’s” are as hard-core as those in Pakistan or the Middle East, but they also teach religious bigotry, as well as the glorification of militaristic power and hegemony. I hear that the Air Force Academy might be on the madras path as well, in addition to sexual harassment and abuse of female cadets, there are reports that extremist Christians are attempting to hijack the entire academy. Here our youth is not taught how to blow one’s self up to kill the “enemy”, instead they are taught how to be more efficient killers, by “heroically” dropping bombs on “targets” from miles up in the sky. The Naval Academy has it’s own favorite way to kill the “enemy”, they fire cruise missiles from a hundred miles away... sanitary, hygienic and like a video game... you never even see blood, much less have to wash it off your hands.

Al Jezeerah? It’s biased, but so is our media, especially Fox, but all media is biased. You get to a whole new level of bias, when you get your news from the 700 Club and other extremist Christian TV news. On these networks, you are fed; information, prophecy and talk shows at all hours of the day and night, spewing religious intolerance and news that is as biased anything on Al Jezeerah. At least Al Jezeerah sometimes has people with differing views interviewed or debated, I have not seen much of that on the American fundamentalist programs... Eventually they might add that to their programming, at least it would make them look less biased.

Is this a free country? Can I say what I think? Yes, I can, but not with impunity. If I say that I don’t think our soldiers in Iraq are particularly heroic, I will be shunned, marginalized, derided or worse. Never the less, I am not impressed by men and women covered in the best body armor in the world, with Phalanx Gattling

guns literally shooting Arabs to pieces... meanwhile the insurgents AK-47 bullets bounce off the Americans like peas. I suppose the roadside bombs were a nasty surprise to the geniuses in the war rooms of Washington and West Point.

I sympathize a bit more with the foot soldiers than with the pilots, this is a war fought by the working class, primarily to benefit the investing class. The grunts get a regular pay check and the rich get richer...

I have very little sympathy for the Zionist settlers of Gaza, as they are shown being evicted in the summer of 2005. How can I, when I know about the Palestinians who they evicted far more unjustly and who did not qualify for hundreds of thousands of dollars of compensation.

How many people will the land support, either on a subsistence level, or in a grander style? Either way, competition over land has always been a major cause of conflict among humans. Historically and to this day, the only way to hold onto land has been by maintaining enough strength to deter "aggressors." Force is how land has been taken and strength has always been required to hold all but the worst land. This story is at least as old as our species.

I've always liked the English, especially their musicians, but also its fascinating history... the Magna Carta, Battle of Hastings, Queen Elizabeth I, world colonization and conquests... but maybe I was duped. The English peoples power is difficult to dispute, but more and more I see them a bit more like pirates, than as purveyors of democratic ideals... although they've done a lot of that too. That being said, I also have to accept that my Arab people have been no more noble and for the last 400 years, also much less "successful."

Neither the president nor the pastor have convinced me of a darn thing... except that they'll do anything to get their way... to "win."

Bush and the neocons are accused of fumbling the ball on the New Orleans recovery... but they are pouring money into the low lying city at an astonishing rate. If anyone can make lemonade out of this, it's Karl "the wizard" Rove and his rich buddies... meanwhile the value of their oil stocks keeps going up and up. These fellows aren't any better at rescuing Americans, than they are at bombing Iraqis.

My family has taken the president's words to heart and is trying to spend every dollar I make, to support the economy... meanwhile my economy keeps going south, no matter how fast I run on that treadmill.

It does not bother me when I see you proud "warriors" who are so enamored of your killing skills, stymied by low tech Arab fighters. These are people from a culture that does not study, teach or revere high tech war to nearly the extent you do, yet they are holding their own. It would be one thing if your prowess were

directed at invaders, but perhaps you are the invaders.

I had and probably still have a lot in common with Jews, like me they were to some extent outsiders and usually underdogs. In elementary school, for a while, my best friend was Jewish...after the six day war however, I vaguely remember that we drifted apart. He and I had a lot in common before that war, we both had a quirky sense of humor and neither of us knew much about the; communions, confirmations or confessions that were practiced by many of our classmates. My buddy did however have a family and a religious community of like minded people and although I didn't know it some of them shared a common goal ... Zionism. My friends family I learned much later, was planting trees for Israel and sending money to the cause. There was no Arab American community in our town at that time, although there were nascent ones in larger cities nearby. I was lucky enough to have a loving family and a few good friends. I don't recall ever meeting another Arab American kid and there may not have been any in our town. If such things were important, I didn't realize it and never even missed what I was missing.

On my father's side, Grandma and my Aunts visited once or twice from the old country and my memories of those times are like hazy hallucinations in which no one spoke the same language. Dad's dad had died before I was born and I think we missed out greatly by not knowing him. Occasionally my uncle would visit, which was always an important and grand occasion, since he was a charismatic and very successful man. Other Arabic relatives would come by every four or five years for visits that lasted through dinner and desert and involved a lot of talk that was either about relatives I didn't know, or in a language I didn't understand. Dad tried to teach us Arabic at least once and I think I can still picture the little books he gave us to study, but which we never did.

Maybe no one group is the chosen people, or maybe they are... anyway most people have an opinion on the subject.

Some years ago, I remember hearing that the Israelis were going to confiscate a couple hundred more acres of land from the Palestinians in Jerusalem. The U.S. used it's veto at the UN for the first time in a long while to block a resolution condemning the action. For their part, they said this will be the last time they will confiscate any Palestinian land in Jerusalem. Right! As long as there is land in Jerusalem owned by Palestinians, Zionists will be after it. It is still going on, more recently with the wall around the Palestinians, built to protect the Israelis, but built largely on Palestinian land. Is it really God's will that we sacrifice justice for the sake of Israeli expansion? Is it really in our "strategic" interest as our politicians and general's tell us to support Israel at all costs? It is probably irrelevant at this point, since they have enough nukes to destroy all the natives of the Middle East or any other people who might threaten them.

Wars will start to end when men and now women stop taking money for dropping bombs on other people for any reason other than the defense of their sovereign land. The old slogan, "what if someone gave a war and no one came", is true. Let the generals and politicians stand there and shoot each other, we'd be better off without them anyway.

I doubt if the dominant churches have ever considered other religions worthy of as much respect as theirs and now is no different. I would ask Hal Lindsey and the other scholars of prophecy, does the Bible's prophecy have to come to pass or could God's warnings be heeded and the apocalypse be avoided. I think I know what they'd say and it doesn't offer much hope, especially since the main protagonists in the Middle East so polarized. Will the Palestinians eventually lay down their arms and agree to coexist with Israel? Will Israel stop taking Palestinian land? Will one or both sides be obliterated by nuclear, biological or other types of WMDs? It seems like the Israelis will never relinquish their claims and it seems almost as unlikely that the Palestinians, Arabs and Moslems will relinquish theirs. With nuclear weapons in the hands of Israel, the Arabs probably will never displace them, and if they try again in earnest, the region and maybe the world will be damaged beyond repair.

Terrorism is the problem of the century for the developed nations. They accuse the Arabs of being terrorists, but what do you expect people to do when someone steals their country? If the American Indians had bombs, would they have not used them? Israel and America might prevail and steal Palestine, as they have been trying for 100 years, but don't cry about the natives resisting, that is their natural right and inclination. Don't cry foul because they will not line up and let your war machine grind them up like hamburger, they are using the natural tactic that an underdog must use. It is just another indication of your arrogance and meanness that you expect them to voluntarily be wiped out by your jets, missiles, tanks and bombs.

The Israelis loudly pronounce their claim to Palestine based on God's supposedly granting it to their man who listened to talking bushes and his descendents who massacred entire tribes of people who were already on the land. They claim to have controlled the land of Palestine for hundreds if not a thousand years, but is that true? Archeology tells us that they probably never controlled the whole of Palestine. There were always other groups of people controlling parts of Palestine, despite the Hebrews continual efforts to ethnically cleanse the land. The Samaritans and others held on, as they had held on long before the Hebrews invaded their lands. These indigenous people are portrayed as uncivilized heathens, but archeology is also producing evidence that they may not have been so bad after all and possibly had cultures that compared quite favorably to that of the Hebrew invaders. The trick seems largely to be in writing history, your side always looks pretty good if you can be the only author whose account of events survives.

If possession is nine tenths of the law, then they are legally in control of Palestine now, but as said earlier, some people think that often the law is an ass. Time will tell if they will hold onto Palestine and probably they will since they reportedly have nukes and certainly have the U.S.A. on their side. With 80 or so nukes and God knows how many other weapons of mass destruction, they are unlikely to be dislodged, but why should that convince me that God gave them the land. Seems to me it's more like old fashioned international intrigue and conquest that accomplished it. Perhaps they should have Ur in Iraq, if that's where they came from or some part of the U.S. heartland, since so many Americans believe their story, or New York where so many support them.

I am branded an anti-Semitic for these views and our cultural prejudice is so blinding that they own the moral high ground in America, because the Bible tells us so. It doesn't seem to matter in the least, that tens or hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were driven from their land by Israeli fighters in 1948, 1967 and 1973. It doesn't seem to matter, that blue eyed, blond, fair skinned Jews who probably have more European than Middle Eastern blood have emigrated to occupied Palestine. These colonists have taken over the local Arabs land and they seem determined to replace the native Palestinian culture with their own. The Arabs are far from perfect, but I wonder if their development over the last one hundred years would have been in a more "progressive" direction, if they had not been besieged by these wealthy and well connected colonists.

What about this word conspiracy? I can take it or leave it... after all it's just a word. It may be more correct to say they have a common goal... certainly it is more politically correct to say that. Truly they have suffered, but there is usually a cause and effect relationship, karma if you will. If their purchase of political, legal, media, entertainment and financial influence in western countries is any indication, then there may be some rational for the resentment other cultures have had against them in the past. None of these should have led to the holocaust, but if they try to take over a nation, by way of its financial, legal and political system and their brains, the

people of those lands have a right to stop their influence.

They claim to need a homeland for their own safety and preservation and that may be true, however if they could restrain themselves from trying to run the show and manage us like goyum, I suspect their troubles would decrease. Maybe such an intelligent, driven people can not help but come out on top, but I'm not so sure about their claim to be chosen by God. Such rhetoric sounds more like a good way to justify anything they care to do in their quest for whatever they want... it's also a good way to piss off the neighbors, whose land you are coveting. No wonder they have had so much trouble historically, how would you like it if someone came and told you that God had just given them your land? If their claim is true that they need a homeland and if it's true that God promised them the land of Palestine, then no doubt they will have it. If that claim of God's promise is false, they may still get it and as long as they write the book, it will all be chalked up to the fulfillment of prophesy.

It is tragic for the Palestinian people to be caught in the middle of this huge "prophetic" story, what are their chances of surviving on their ancestral lands when they face the might of the western world and Judeo/Christian civilization?

I have to admit that the Judeo/Christian lobby does many good things, but they are not God, I repeat they do some good things, but they are not God and may not be acting as the hand of God. They have contributed much good to scientific progress, but by control or at least undue influence of the media, financial world etc., they are able to forward their goal of control of Palestine and world affairs in general beyond all reasonable... especially when you consider all the peoples they have injured and abandoned along the way. Why should thinking people believe it is their right to do this, any more than we should unquestioning believe the story of Noah marching two of each animal onto an ark? By the way, if you haven't checked out the earlier recorded Epic of Gilgamesh, you should do so.

If they want one set of rules for themselves and another for the rest of the humankind, they are as wrong as anyone else that has attempted the same, be it Hitler or Saddam Hussein.

Israel seems to have considerable influence over what happens in the west and especially over the policies of the U.S.A. Listen to what the great Jewish financier, - Baron Nathan Mayer de Rothschild (1777-1836) reportedly said almost two-hundred years ago..."I care not what puppet is placed on the throne of England to rule the Empire, ... The man that controls Britain's money supply controls the British Empire. And I control the money supply." If his target was the British Empire, I think the current target of the such men has been updated and modernized. With a working influence over both the UK and its successor the US, official control over Palestine and plans for Erath Israel (greater Israel), are just par for the course. What would George Washington, Tom Jefferson, Abe Lincoln, U.S. Grant or other historical Americans have to say about all this. Did you know that when he was commander of the north's armies during the Civil War, Grant

tried to expel them from the south because he believed they were causing major commercial problems. President Abraham Lincoln rescinded the order in this little known chapter of American history.

The Jewish people who are a great people in many areas, will not be swayed from the course they are committed to. I do not blame them for their commitment to having an everlasting homeland, but I think people still have the right to express misgivings. They are currently succeeding and all I can think to do is express my sympathies for the displaced Palestinians and for the many who have died during what I see as a continuing travesty of justice.

Is there no solution but for the Arabs to admit defeat and spend the future under Israeli domination, or face destruction from Israel and its superpower ally? The Israelis have done what they saw fit to provide "security" for themselves and their descendents. That was their "solution" to their security problems and their interpretation of prophecy, but will their actions really provide them the security they desire?

The U.S. may be quite different from bully empires of the past, but in some ways it is quite similar. One being that the younger generation is periodically compelled to fight, kill and die so that the older generation can live in comfort. The younger generation is usually fairly amenable to doing this since; many are easily led, some seem bent of self destruction anyway, they also want to benefit from living in a dominant society and last but not least, they have little choice.

It's July 4th, 2001 and I'm watching heroes of Iwo Jima with Oliver North. On the radio is a black author talking about the slave owning founders of our country and their hypocrisy. A while back I read on the net (from British monthly publication, Nonviolent Action,) that the U.S. has dropped bombs on 19 countries since world war II and "asks in how many instances did a democratic government, respectful of human rights, occur as a result"

(members.tripod.co.uk/innate/1999news/news70.htm). I enormously appreciate the ultimate sacrifice the US soldiers have made for me through out history, but I wonder, was the same thing said of Roman centurions who plundered the world in their time for the benefit of their country, are we different, I hope so.

What is worse? People being blown up by a terrorist's improvised bomb, or people being blown up by a bomb made by a large corporation that you probably own stock in? War is not good for children or other living things and no one should be blown up period!

What is new under the sun? What the founding fathers put down on paper is pretty good for me, however America does not well represent this in my opinion. I think

all of the founding fathers were fallible and some were worse than others. I'm leaning towards George Washington as being the best ... at the moment.

When there is liberty and justice for all, there might be peace, till then it's a pipe dream.

This despicable act grew out of many things, including an I.O.U. (Israel, Oil and US).

Reactionaries in the Middle East call for Jihad, in the west the conflict may increasingly be painted in terms of a crusade. As with most bloody conflicts, religion and economics are at the core.

God is great, Gold is good, the future's uncertain and history tends to repeat itself.

POSTED ON GOLD-EAGLE.COM forum on Sep 18, 08:55 am

I am an Arab American, but you'd would never know by looking at me, my mother was a red headed "Okie" and my dad an Egyptian who came here on a Fulbright scholarship 50 years ago. I'm tall, look like my Scotch Irish mom's side of the family, my skin is very light, couldn't get a tan if I wanted to, have straight auburn hair and except for a big nose, don't stand out in a crowd at all. Due to the above, I've always gotten to hear a fairly un-censored version of what's on other Americans minds regarding middle-easterners. I remember being in college during the Iranian hostage crisis, sitting in a college beer joint listening to a kid come raging in looking for a "camel jock" to beat up, he had lots of support. The line from the Bob Seger song, "you always feel outnumbered, you don't dare make a stand", sometimes comes to mind. A couple weeks ago, while hanging around with my in-laws my brother-in-law made a comment about those "damn A-rabs", then looked at me and said "oops." My wife's a native Hoosier, she and my kids go to a reactionary Christian church, I was raised Unitarian since my mom and dad had to compromise and my relatives in Egypt (I was there most recently last summer) are generally very secularized. I believe in God (although there are times like last Tuesday when I have my doubts.) I don't go to church except on rare occasions with my wife and kids to their Christian church, where I'm usually offended by something the pastor says, or when I visit my Dad and he requests that I go with him to the Unitarian church, where I'm equally turned off by their views. I feel empathy for middle-easterners and people that may look Middle Eastern, my kids who are one quarter Egyptian don't look it at all and my last name does not sound obviously Arabic so for the time being my kids have had no harassment to deal with. I'm concerned though about the future, since this thing may escalate and there are lots of people in our town that know my background. My wife thinks, I'm paranoid and that the good people of Indiana would never harass our kids, but I'm not so sure. My son is 17 and I know that volunteering for the military is a subject amongst his crowd. I missed the draft by two or three years, but he may not be so lucky. You may say we need boys with Arab blood to serve and I can't argue with you, I

also feel that American kids are going to be sacrificed to save the state of Israel and I don't like that. For what little it's worth, my grandfather (on my moms side) was shot in the head in WWI and survived with a metal plate in his head and I've had other relatives fight in the Civil War (both sides) the Revolutionary War (two killed at the battle of Kings Mountain) and other conflicts. I grew up in a commuter town in NJ (on a clear day you could see the World Trade Center from points in town) and very sadly saw an old classmate featured on the show "60 Minutes" the other day looking for her brother, a Bear Sterns executive who is missing in NY. The mayor of my old home town was also interviewed on MSNBC a few days ago, they were in the process of tracking down the identity of the missing (probably all dead) owners of some 35 cars that had been in the local train station parking lot since the terrorist attack. I've been to the world trade center over the years a number of times to visit clients and to dine at Windows on the World with my wife and can't believe it's all gone. All that being said, I think we should take out Bin Laden and take out the Taliban government with as little "collateral" damage as possible. They (not the Afgan people) are monsters and a perversion of Islam. Then we'd better issue gas masks, make small pox and anthrax vaccinations available and seal our borders as best we can. The credentials of foreigners in the U.S., especially Arabs and Moslems should be examined for their validity and those that are found to be here with ill intent, jailed or deported. Finally and I think a lot of you won't agree, we should become an impartial arbitrator of the Israeli Palestinian conflict. I truly believe that Islamic extremism would never have had much fertile soil in the Middle East, except for our one sided support of the state of Israel and it's repercussions. I have been to Egypt three times (1974, 1986 and 2000) and each time I've seen forces moving that society slightly more towards fundamentalism, although it's still a long way off at least with my relatives who are upper class and for the most part have as much against Islamic extremism as much as we do. The Middle East conflict needs either super human effort or supernatural intervention to be resolved and so far the human effort has been somewhat disingenuous, so be prepared for the worst. God is great, gold is good.

Vitaminie, respectfully I think that many of the facts you posted are "open to debate", based on Biblical Archeology and on an unbiased (if there is such a thing) analysis of recent history.

Goldencreature, thank you for your reply and your kind words, I would be glad to count you as a friend and agree with your post. I hope and pray there will peace, liberty and justice for all some day and think solid American efforts offer the best chance to achieve it.

War is usually the wrong thing to do, it is evil, it is rarely necessary and even, so called "just" wars are usually not what they seem. When we rightly lament the widows and orphans of the WTC victims, we rarely think of the widows and

orphans of the many that have died at our own hands. How many countries has the U.S. bombed? I have heard there have been at least twenty countries that we have bombed since world war two.

How many Vietnamese died at our hands? I've heard over one million, but I have not confirmed this.

How many Iraqis have died as a result of our war and our sanctions? I've heard there were perhaps 50,000 soldiers killed and possible one million civilians, mostly children as a result of sanctions.

How many native Americans died as a result of our wars and diseases? Enormous numbers died from small pox that we introduced to them... not always accidentally. After 9/11, there were concerns that terrorists might use small pox to attack Americans... that would be horrendous and ironic. Could we be the victims of pestilence that the book of Revelation talks about?

War is as old as the human race and I believe there are just wars, some of which we have been leading participants in. What the statements above and below are intended to do, is stimulate thought and discussion about a very complicated and very serious subject.

The Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor was dastardly, but why wasn't the Israeli sneak attack on the Egyptian air force not dastardly? In both cases, didn't the perpetrators justify their actions on the ground that they had to destroy the other countries navy or air force, or they would be used against them? So, why is one case morally correct and the other morally bankrupt? In the case of Japan, I believe the U.S. had decided not to ship them any more oil and possibly to embargo oil they might receive from other countries. The Japanese, who I believe were a cruel, militaristic and expansionist power at that time, were backed into a corner. I have heard American policy makers state that any threats to our oil supplies would be dealt with like an act of war... so there are at least some parallels with Japan. If another country threatened to cut off our supplies of Saudi oil, we might attack that nation preemptively, which is what the Japanese did to us. The notable difference is that they were a cruel expansionist military power and we are a more benevolent military power...

I think it was an atrocity to attack the WTC and kill approximately 3,500 civilians, but why was it not an atrocity to drop atom bombs on Japan and kill 100,000 civilians? If the terrorists are cowards for not meeting us on the field of battle, then what were we, for dropping the atom bombs on Japan, instead of meeting them on the battlefield? I'm just curious...

Many thousands of lives both American and Japanese are said to have been saved by dropping the bombs, but there are still many people that question the morality of killing many tens of thousands of Japanese civilians to accomplish this.

The point is, war is hell, they've declared war, we've declared war, people will die and things will break.

I think Jews and Arabs, Christians and Muslims can live together in peace, but not in countries that are dominated by religious reactionaries. Peace, liberty and justice thrive best in countries that have freedom of religion, but not state religion. The U.S. has always been the leader in this area, but it is backsliding, Israel and the Arab countries are sadly lacking in this area. The Jews and the Arabs are more alike than they want to admit, read what Gary Greenberg (a Jewish man I think: says in his book 101 myths of the Bible and see what Isaac Ismanov says in his book.)

My advice to my kids is to stay neutral as long as possible and when you have to do what you strongly believe is right and if you're having trouble deciding what that is... sit on the fence. Don't automatically side with your country, wise men have said that true patriots sometimes have to oppose their own governments. Who is the terrorist and who is the freedom fighter, is determined as much by who writes history, as by who was "right" in the first place.

Overall though, I think the U.S. has done an excellent job as far as super power empires go and it's major failing, as I see it, has been to ignore George Washington's advice to avoid foreign entanglements and to not make permanent foreign alliances. We have done both of these things, based on greed, ideology, religion and convenience.

The media moguls control what we hear and they do it without official censorship. They do it instead by controlling access to being published and by having pundits discredit points of view that they don't like. This way we can still have a free press, that is controlled and used to indoctrinate the public as much as any dictators press. Our method is much surer to achieve the desired result, because the populace is generally convinced that they are enjoying freedom of the press. At least in a dictatorship, the people know they are being duped. Take the Palestinian issue, it is constantly in the news and the coverage since even before the occupation of Palestine in 1948, was biased. This has never changed, but the people have always believed they get fair coverage. The Arabs facilitate this by their acts of terror against civilians, which is repugnant to Americans and the press pretends to be fair by the occasional interview with someone with an Arab point of view. By calculation, I believe such people are discredited before they even begin their argument. Our culture and even our language makes presenting the Arab point of view very difficult. We have words like anti-Semite, holocaust denier and others that are used broadly to paint the pro-Palestinian pundit into a corner. Even our dominant religion, calls the descendents of Ishmael wild donkeys.

Propaganda is to be expected on both sides, they say the first casualty of war is the truth and apparently, it is necessary to tell the people primarily "our" side of the

story, in order to maintain support and control. The “truth” may never be known, after all, history is written by the victorious.

I probably reacted a lot like average Americans to 9/11, except that I think in addition to a military and homeland defense response, there should also be a push for a viable Palestinian state. In my humble opinion, our media is largely controlled by... dare I say it... the children of Abraham. Virtually the entire Clinton Middle East negotiating team was Jewish, the U.S. ambassador to Egypt is or was Jewish, the banks and major Wall Street firms are heavily influenced by their money, the federal reserve chief is and was Jewish, etc., etc. You say that they have risen to these positions honestly, that they are highly effective in these positions, that these Jewish peoples interests are the same as the American peoples and that by dwelling on it, I simply reveal myself as an anti-Semite. You say that Arafat rejected the Clinton peace plan that “gave the Palestinians 90% of what they wanted”, I say that’s just one side of the story and the other side is rarely heard, I say that you may be right or you may be wrong and only time will tell.

What they have offered, I believe, is an un-viable Palestinian state made up of a patchwork of villages, disconnected from each other and bypassed by major roads. It appears quite obviously, to have been purposefully designed so that Palestinians can not easily trade or transit with each other. This is in contrast to strategically placed Israeli towns and settlements that are well connected by the highway system and heavily protected. Meanwhile, to further damage the Palestinians chances for a viable state, the Israelis continue to build more settlements in the territories they occupy... changing the facts on the ground they call it. With these duplicitous policies, what little hope that exists for a peaceful solution diminishes further.

What we may get instead is an erosion of our constitutional guarantees of freedom from government tyranny, the death of our sons and daughters overseas, the death of our citizens at home, the death of innocents from other countries and the depletion of our treasury.

http://www.hopkins-biodefense.org/sympcast/transcripts/trans_kopl.html

To better prepare the U.S. against the possible use of small pox virus, CDC has awarded a contract this year to Ora Vax of Cambridge, Mass., to produce small pox vaccine. Approximately 40 million doses of vaccine will be produced initially with anticipated delivery of the first full scale production lots in 2004. The contract allows for increased production of the vaccine should the need arise.

Now the government wants to outsource it’s torturing requirement, there is rendition and there is extreme rendition... look them up.

Here is a list of the countries that America has been at war with or has bombed - since the second world war: China (1945-46, 1950-53) , Korea (1950-53) , Guatemala (1954, 1967-69) , Indonesia (1958) , Cuba (1959-60) , the Belgian Congo (1964) , Peru (1965) , Laos (1964-73) , Vietnam (1961-73) , Cambodia (

1969-70) , Grenada (1983) , Libya (1986) , El Salvador (1980s) , Nicaragua (1980s) , Panama (1989) , Iraq (1991-99) , Bosnia (1995) , Sudan (1998) , Yugoslavia (1999) . And now Afghanistan. Total of 20 listed here, I think there's at least one more.

Here is a partial list of the countries that America has been at war with-overtly and covertly-since World War II: China, Korea, Guatemala, Indonesia, Cuba, the Belgian Congo, Peru, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Grenada, Libya, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Iraq, Sudan, Yugoslavia. And now Afghanistan.

Oct 27, 14:22 posted to GE Forum

10/27/01 Gas is \$ 1.00 today, I saw it at GasAmerica on Lafayette road, hurray! Now lets get down to brass tacks. In order to keep it that way, you need to take care of some business. First of all, you need to deport all the Arabs in the USA, after all, they are all potential terrorists. This is a religious war, not an economic one like the one against the Japanese. The Nissei (Japanese Americans) in the U.S. at the time of Pearl Harbor, were not religious zealots, from what I know about it, they were probably more interested in economics than in religion. The U.S. government is now hamstrung by it's actions after Pearl Harbor, at which time it rounded up and incarcerated many thousands of Nissei, this despite the fact that very, very few were security risks. With the Arabs, it may be different. Many Arabs in the U.S.A. are deeply religious and even those that aren't, if they are immigrants, grew up in Arab countries where Islam is deeply ingrained in the culture and people. I don't think the same can be said of the Nissei at the time of WWII. So, to be "safe", you must take all Arabs under the age of 70, that immigrated to the U.S.A. and send them back to where they came from. This will give you a bit more peace, at least for a while, but to be sure, you will eventually have to annihilate the entire Arab world, this will give you peace for an even longer time. Someday, you'll have to annihilate the nation of China too, but this may not be for a few decades and after that you'll have more peace for a while. Eventually, you'll have to annihilate lots of peoples, but don't worry, this will bring you more peace and eventually, there will be no one left to annihilate but each other and then, there will really be peace. In the meantime, being the only superpower is really tough, after all, you have to do a lot of things you may not want to, in the name of peace, security and \$ 1.00 gasoline. The alternative, would have been to do what George Washington said and mind our own business, but it's too late for that.

i second the vote to deport njokin
(Tsunami) Oct 27, 15:53

@njokin

(returnofwisebeard) Oct 27, 15:01

The cheapest price of gasoline around these parts is in the neighborhood of \$1.58.

This neighborhood is in the California gold country, just east of Sacramento. Send me some of that \$1.00 gasoline! As for the rest of your post, you can take the tongue out of your cheek now. We're not into exterminating the rest of the world. Where did you determine that? My conscience is clear. How about yours?

n.jo.kin

(EMartin) Oct 27, 14:40

Go to the hate forum!

njokin

(howie) Oct 27, 14:34

I do not know if you posted this in order to obtain feedback or not, but your post is one that I have been wanting to post on every message board since I have been reading these. And especially since September 11, 2001. You have definitely "hit a nerve." Do not let anyone dissuade you from your Quixotic quest. But you did not mention that we have nearly succeeded in our attempted genocide against the indigenous peoples of North America. Let's hear more from you as we desperately need a conscience.

Oct 27, abt. 14:35 posted to GE Forum

Hi Howie, yes I did hope to get some feed back and it looks like I did hit a couple of raw nerves. I didn't mention the attempted genocide you reminded me about, I don't know exactly what to say about it, but agree it was huge.

Emartin, my comments were facetious, they were meant to point out what I think is the very difficult situation we are in. I do not advocate annihilating anyone, or for that matter necessarily deporting anyone.

returnofwisebeard, sorry to hear your paying so much for your gasoline, I hope your price comes down a bit. I don't think the US is into exterminating the world, I was just writing in response to the mess we're in and the very few realistic options we have that might work. My point is that we should have stuck to what the founding fathers advocated and done more to avoid foreign alliances and entanglements, but I guess that may have never been entirely possible.

(After further research, they are all highly disputed quotes and can not be confirmed, for example, GW apparently was not referring to them, he was reportedly referring to speculators?)

George Washington

(in Maxims of George Washington by A. A. Appleton & Co.)

"They (the Jews) work more effectively against us, than the enemy's armies. They are a hundred times more dangerous to our liberties and the great cause we are engaged in... It is much to be lamented that each state, long ago, has not hunted them down as pest to society and the greatest enemies we have to the happiness of America."

(George Washington)

(research to find it this is real)

Benjamin Franklin

(This prophecy, by Benjamin Franklin, was made in a "CHIT CHAT AROUND THE TABLE DURING INTERMISSION", at the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention of 1787. This statement was recorded in the dairy of Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, a delegate from South Carolina.)

"I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the Jews.

In whatever country Jews have settled in any great number, they have lowered its moral tone; depreciated its commercial integrity; have segregated themselves and have not been assimilated; have sneered at and tried to undermine the Christian religion upon which that nation is founded, by objecting to its restrictions; have built up a state within the state; and when opposed have tried to strangle that country to death financially, as in the case of Spain and Portugal.

For over 1,700 years, the Jews have been bewailing their sad fate in that they have been exiled from their homeland, as they call Palestine. But gentlemen, did the world give it to them in fee simple, they would at once find some reason for not returning. Why? Because they are vampires, and vampires do not live on vampires. They cannot live only among themselves. They must subsist on Christians and other people not of their race.

If you do not exclude them from these United States, in their Constitution, in less than 200 years they will have swarmed here in such great numbers that they will dominate and devour the land and change our form of government, for which we Americans have shed our blood, given our lives our substance and jeopardized our liberty.

If you do not exclude them, in less than 200 years our descendants will be working in the fields to furnish them substance, while they will be in the counting houses rubbing their hands. I warn you, gentlemen, if you do not exclude Jews for all time, your children will curse you in your graves.

Jews, gentlemen, are Asiatics, let them be born where they will nor how many generations they are away from Asia, they will never be otherwise. Their ideas do not conform to an American's, and will not even thou they live among us ten generations. A leopard cannot change its spots. Jews are Asiatics, are a menace to this country if permitted entrance, and should be excluded by this Constitutional Convention."

Benjamin Franklin

Peter Styvesant

(17th century Dutch governor in America.)

"The Jews who have arrived would nearly all like to remain here, but learning that they (with their customary usury and deceitful trading with the Christians) were very repugnant to the inferior magistrates, as also to the people having the most affection for you; the Deaconry also fearing that

owing to their present indigence they might become a charge in the coming winter, we have, for the benefit of this weak newly developing place and land in general, deemed it useful to require them in a friendly way to depart; praying also most seriously in this connection, for ourselves also for the general community of your worships, that the deceitful race - such hateful enemies and blasphemers of the name of Christ - not be allowed further to infect and trouble this new colony."

Peter Styvesant

(Letter to the Amsterdam Chamber of the Dutch West India Company, from
New Amsterdam, September 22, 1654.)

"The Jews, as a class, violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department, and also Department orders, are hereby expelled from the Department." ...U.S. Grant

"General Orders Number 11," written in Oxford, Mississippi, on December 17, 1862.

This quote by grant can be authenticated very easily

"You might ask yourself, why historically, have they been kicked out of country after country? There might be more to it than their usual patter about jealousy."...kgw

Thomas Jefferson

(18th century American statesman)

"Dispersed as the Jews are, they still form one nation, foreign to the land they live in."

Thomas Jefferson (D. Boorstin, THE AMERICANS)

"Those who labor in the earth are the Chosen People of God, if ever he had a chosen people."

Thomas Jefferson (NOTES ON VIRGINIA)

JEWS IN THE GOVERNMENT IN ABOUT 1998

Madeline Albright

Secretary of State

Robert Rubin

Secretary of Treasury

William Cohen
Secretary of Defense

Dan Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture

George Tenet
CIA Chief

Samuel Berger
Head National Security Council

Evelyn Lieberman
Deputy Chief of Staff

Stuart Eizenstat
Under Secretary of State

Charlene Barshefsky
U.S. Trade Representative

Susan Thomases
Aide to First Lady

Joel Klein
Assistant Attorney General

Gene Sperling
National Economic Council

Ira Magaziner
National Health Care

Peter Tarnoff
Deputy Secretary of State

Alice Rivlin
Economic Advisory

Janet Yellen
Chairwoman, National Economic Council

Rahm Emanuel
Policy Advisor

Doug Sosnik

Counsel to President

Jim Steinberg
Deputy to National Security Chief

Jay Footlik
Special Liason to the Jewish Community
(no other group has a special liason)

Robert Nash
Personal Chief

Jane Sherburne
President's Lawyer

AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT
Daniel C. Kurtzer

Mark Penn
Asia Expert to NEC

Sandy Kristoff
Health Care Chief

Robert Boorstin
Communications Aide

Keith Boykin
Communications Aide

Jeff Eller
Special Assistant to Clinton

Tom Epstein
Health Care Adviser

Judith Feder
National Security Council

Richard Feinberg
Assistant Secretary Veterans

Hershel Gober
Food and Drug Administration

Steve Kessler
White House Counsel

Ron Klein
Assistant Secretary Education

Madeleine Kunin
Communications Aide

David Kusnet
Dept. AIDS Program

Margaret Hamburg
Dir. Press Conferences

Many Grunwald
Liason to Jewish Leaders

Karen Adler
Dir. State Dept. Policy

Samuel Lewis
National Security Council

Stanley Ross
National Security Council

Dan Schifter
Director Peace Corps.

Eli Segal
Deputy Chief of Staff

Alan Greenspan
Chairman of Federal Reserve Bank

Robert Weiner
Drug Policy Coordinator

Jack Lew
Deputy Director Management and Budget

James P. Rubin
Under Secretary of State

David Lipton

Under Secretary of The Treasury

Lanny P. Breuer
Special Counsel to The President

Richard Holbrooke
Special Representative to NATO

Kenneth Apfel
Chief of Social Security

Joel Klein
Deputy White House Counsel

Sidney Blumenthal
Special Advisor to First Lady

David Kessler
Chief of Food & Drug Administration

Seth Waxman
Acting Solicitor General

Mark Penn
Presidential Pollster

Dennis Ross
Special Middle East Representative

Howard Shapiro
- General Counsel for the FBI

Lanny Davis
White House Special Counsel

Sally Katzen
Secretary of Management and Budget

Kathleen Koch
Heads FBI Equal Opportunity Office

John Podesta
Deputy Chief of Staff

Alan Blinder
Vice Chairman of Federal Reserve

Janet Yellen
Heads Council of Economlc Advisors

Ron Klain
Chief of Staff for Al Gore

Pandagold (11/2/01; 13:42:00MT - usagold.com msg#: 64564)

BR549

BR549 You should stay inside your Israeli gas mask you appear so proud of as your challenge to me spews jumbled rhetoric, and totally ignores my explanation.

Living memory is not the war of 1812, or even 1917. Many many people are still alive from the second world war, and more also from Vietnam, you do not have to look in dusty history books. So please cut the crap. I also explained how these are totally relevant, and cannot be ignored, though you may choose to.

Do you want me to go on about the atrocities being carried out by Israel AT THIS PRESENT TIME- they are well documented - and photographed.

The first real terrorist groups The Haganah, The Stern gang and the Irgun, that appeared after the second world war, not only killed British civilians but even their own Jewish civilians when it blew up the King David hotel, and put bombs in other public places. The success of these terrorist groups (I suppose to you they were freedom fighters) gave the idea and the impetus for other groups with an agenda to go on the rampage.

Now Israel, a nation born with the help of its terrorists, cries because a people fighting for its existence strikes back with the same weapon.

You should also learn who first perfected, introduced, and directed, chemical warfare against an enemy. No, it was not Iraq. His name is Fritz Haber - a German Jew.

Wear your Israeli gas mask with pride my friend.

You, sir, may have a convenient short memory, but others do not. 'Monkey see, monkey do'. What goes around comes around.

This is the real problem with this world, there are too many people who only want to remember that which suits them, or their cause. But, alas, it does not work that way.

They often get reminded by events that can be devastating, and often others suffer

as a result.

Posted to GE 11/17/01

Big deal, so what, who cares (or back in the saddle again)

(njokin) Nov 17, 09:19

It's the Indian wars 100 years later, we want the black gold in their sandy hills, not the yellow gold in their black hills, the seven sisters have replace the railroad tycoons as the profiteers. Manifest destiny is still in the peoples minds, this time it's the survival and expansion of Israel, not the expansion of Christendom, except perhaps for Merrill, McDonalds and Walmart.

What will the outcome be, well, who can make war against the U.S.? We will still align ourselves with "friendly" tribes, we'll still make treaties and promises, (don't hold your breath Palestinians.)

The weapons are fiercer on both sides, but the west's are far greater. Only a small percentage of the American Indians survived those crusades, they live quietly on their reservations, trying to maintain what remains of their culture and dignity, ipso-facto the wild, wild east?

It is much easier to vaccinate and secure a country the size of NJ, than one the size of the USA. It is also convenient to keep, for as long as necessary, a portion of your enemy as a shield, even as you bully and steal their land at the same time. As a final insurance policy, the holy shrines of the big-three are in your backyard. If you are to rule the world, why not do it benevolently and with the interests of everyone at heart, instead of only yourselves? Instead, you profit by selling us the seeds of our destruction.

As for you Muslim brother, for God's sake stop it with the clitorectomies and burkas! You shouldn't give away the farm to your women, but don't be cruel either, it is coming back to bite you right now!

Jerusalem? Why not a universally open city under the control of moderates, instead of hardliners? Of course this is unlikely to happen for some time. Until then the mullahs, rabbis, pastors and priests will demand that more and more blood is shed, in their efforts to hide the truth and hang on to their control of the sheeple.

Why Should You Fight?

In the second world war the U.S. government produced a widely seen series of films called "Why We Fight." It helped convince the few Americans that weren't pro war after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, that we had good reason to fight. I think

it was justified.

Now the government is again trying to convince the few Americans that aren't ready to fight or to send their kids off to fight that we must defeat the enemy they call "terrorism." In this essay, I will try to make a case that their goals are wider and less honorable than eliminating terrorist and that you should think twice before joining their war.

Ariel Sharon:

"We control America"

"Every time we do something you tell me America will do this and will do that . . . I want to tell you something very clear: Don't worry about American pressure on Israel. We, the Jewish people, control America, and the Americans know it."

- Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, October 3, 2001

I have documented this statement as best I could and interestingly found that many of the hyperlinks were broken, which is a bit unusual for a quote made only six weeks ago.

From: "Deon Masker" <deonmm@e...>

Date: Thu Oct 4, 2001 7:44 am

Subject: Fw: 'We control America.'

THERE YOU HAVE IT!

'We control America.'

Sharon to Peres:

Don't worry about American pressure; we control America

Palestinian Information Centre

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (PIC)An acrimonious argument

erupted during the Israeli cabinet weekly session

last week between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

and his foreign Minister Shimon Peres during which

Sharon reportedly yelled at Peres, saying "don't worry

about American pressure, we control America."

According the Israeli Hebrew radio Kol Yisrael

Wednesday, Peres warned Sharon that refusing to

heed incessant American requests for a cease-fire

with the Palestinians would endanger Israeli interests

and turn the US against us.

At this point, a furious Sharon reportedly turned toward

Peres, saying "every time we do something you tell me

America will do this and will do that . . . I want to tell

you something very clear: Don't worry about American

pressure on Israel. We, the Jewish people, control

America, and the Americans know it."

**The radio said Peres and other cabinet ministers warned Sharon against saying what he said in public, because "it would cause us a public relations disaster."
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/christianidentity/message/9044>**

Sharon: "We Control America" - www.ezboard.com

... Author, Comment. radone2 ezOP Posts: 388 (10/3/01 11:53:23 pm)

Community Supporter, Sharon: "We Control America" ...

pub50.ezboard.com/ffreethinkingforumfrm1.showMessage?topicID=355.topic

**PAGE REMOVED FROM THE INTERNET WHEN I CHECKED IT ON 11/18/01,
MESSAGE READ:**

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The page you are looking for might have been removed, had its name changed, or is temporarily unavailable. "

Sharon to Peres: don't worry about American pressure; we control America

Occupied Jerusalem: 3 October, 2001 (IAP News)

An acrimonious argument erupted during the Israeli cabinet weekly session last week between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his foreign Minister Shimon Peres during which Sharon reportedly yelled at Peres, saying "don't worry about American pressure, we control America."

According the Israeli Hebrew radio, Col Yisrael Wednesday, Peres warned Sharon that refusing to heed incessant American requests for a cease-fire with the Palestinians would endanger Israeli interests and turn the US against us.

At this point, a furious Sharon reportedly turned toward Peres, saying "every time we do something you tell me American will do this and will do that I want to tell you something very clear, don't worry about American pressure on Israel, we, the Jewish people control America, and the Americans know it."

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<http://www.iap.org/>

<http://www.newsmax.com/ubb/Forum7/HTML/001134.html>

MSNBC International News Bulletin Board

... Sharon to Peres: "Don't Worry About American - Pressure; We Control America." Thu

**Oct 4 21:16:50: Re: Sharon to Peres: "Don't Worry About American - Dan Thu ...
bbs.msnbc.com/bbs/msnbc-world/posts/hp/783881.asp - 18k -**

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Searched the web for "We control America" sharon. Results 11 - 20 of about 132.
Search took 0.21 seconds.

Sharon: "We control America" - NewsMax.com Forum

... Author, Topic: Sharon: "We control America". highroad Senior Member, posted October

06, 2001 02:59 AM Click Here to See the Profile for highroad Edit/Delete ...

www.newsmax.com/ubb/Forum7/HTML/001134-2.html - 15k - Cached - Similar pages

[More results from www.newsmax.com]

PalestineCampaign.org

... Shimon Peres during which Sharon reportedly yelled at Peres, saying "don't worry

about American pressure, we control America." According the Israeli Hebrew ...
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Norges nasjonalsosialistiske bevegelse

... against Israeli prime minister Belgium says Sharon hearing can proceed 'We control

America.' Sharon to Peres: Don't worry about American pressure; we control ...
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Washington report on Middle East affairs. Mideastern news.

... Advanced Search. Hate Time: Click here to find who is the terrorist. ... Sharon to Peres:

"We Control America.". It isn't just "freedom" they hate By Sara Pursley. ...

Description: The magazine is published by a non-profit foundation (retired US foreign service officers) offering...

Category: News > Current Events > ... > Current Conflicts > Middle East
www.washington-report.org/ - 81k - Cached - Similar pages

Today's News

... top. Sharon to Peres: don't worry about American pressure; we control America.

Occupied

Jerusalem - An acrimonious argument erupted during the Israeli cabinet ...
www.palestine-info.com/daily_news/prev_editions/2001/Oct01/03oct01.htm - 27k -
Cached - Similar pages

PIC homepage - Mainframe

www.palestine-info.com/mainframe.htm - 24k - Cached - Similar pages

Al-Wilayah

... Sharon to Peres: don't worry about American pressure; we control America An
acrimonious
argument erupted during the Zionist cabinet weekly session last week ...
www.al-wilayah.org/newszionistssharonperes.html - 3k - Cached - Similar pages

LA BRUJULA - El Primer Buscador Argentino

... The Challenge of Israel: Fifty Years Larry R 212021 Re: WE CONTROL
AMERICA Larry
R 212022 Re: Sharon's Warning Shot Larry R 212023 Re: Sharon's Warning Shot
...
www.brujula.net/cgi-bin/nntp/wwwnntp?talk.politics.mideast - 24k - Cached -
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Untitled

... Don't worry about American pressure, we control America.' According the Israeli
Hebrew radio Kol Yisrael Wednesday, Peres warned Sharon that refusing to heed ...
www.middleeast.org/comments/1/69.shtml - 6k - Cached - Similar pages

David Irving's newsletter Action Report On-line

... Angry Ariel Sharon tells Peres: "WE control America!". Robert Fisk in The
Nation:
So it has Come to This. Correct Full Text of Osama bin Laden's Statement. ...
Description: A Revisionist portal with graphics, images, articles, audio and video
about denying Jewish Holocaust.
Category: Society > Issues > ... > Hate > Hate Groups > Revisionism
www.fpp.co.uk/online/ - 32k - Cached - Similar pages

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You're unreasonable, I'm unreasonable, there may never be a peaceful solution. Only someone else will benefit, after we have slaughtered most of each other. We certainly are not powerful enough to destroy you, you may be powerful enough to slaughter us.

Who's land is it? You say God gave it to you, we say we have always been here. You took much of it from the people that lived here three thousand years ago, but you never completely controlled it, even though back then you did your best to cleanse the land of our ancestors, via genocide. Now you say again God gave it to you and you're killing us again, but who are you and who are we? Whose DNA is closer to the people that lived here originally and if that isn't damning enough, whose DNA is closer to your ancestors who stole the land?

And to back you up there is the U.S.A., a country that I love, a country founded on great ideals and great crimes, a country that claims to have the moral high ground, but that lately lives by the creed, "might makes right no matter what the fight."

There may be no one on earth impartial enough to mediate disputes like the Middle East, we would need someone to fall to earth from outer space and even then, they might have their own interests at heart. So let's do it ourselves, let's make a just peace and the only way to do that IMO is to start from the basis that no religion is better or more chosen than any other... oh well it was just a thought.

Does the Talmud promise everything to them? Is Palestine the beginning of their ambitions and not the end? Will they seek legal title to everything? Will they continue to infiltrate, dominate and subvert the legal system to their own ends? Will they own the mortgage to your property, do they already have a lien on your soul? Does zog not issue the marching orders to the US government.

Trading partners, new markets, vital national interests, jobs, affordable energy, sustainable growth and improved standard of living = hegemony, imperialism and a 1,000 year Reich.

We saved the corrupt regimes in Saudi and Kuwait for us, not for the average people in those countries. Our occupations, bombings and military support for Israel and puppet governments has done more to assist the rise of radical Islam than

anything OBL or anyone else could ever do.

Sadly and tragically, the principle of force majeure, “might” makes right, no matter what the fight, is as valid today as its always been. They bomb us and kill thousands, we bomb them back and kill thousands, but who really started it? Was it the Arabs, the Israelis, the U.S., the British? What came first, the chicken or the egg? In the end, we’re always right, because we’re a democracy, even though our founding fathers, (imperfect and discredited as they often are now) wanted a republic, not a pure democracy.

We have been in an ever intensifying war with Islam for fifty years, maybe longer and now as the stakes increase, we hear from more and more experts (Rev. Graham Jr. Etc.) that Islam is evil. Their extremists killed 3,000 innocent Americans on 9/11, we have killed x thousand innocent Afghans and Iraqis since then, I am not counting the Taliban or Al Qaeda.

Look at the scoreboard though and count how many innocents have been killed by the Christian west, especially the U.S.A. In one night we killed 50,000 civilians in Dresden, Germany (maybe with British help.) In seconds, we killed over 50,000 civilians in Hiroshima. The U.S. usually calls itself Christian... were the victims in Dresden and Hiroshima, supporting their governments any more than the poor souls in the WTC. You say, our regime is good and right and their’s were evil, I won’t argue that their regimes were anything but evil, but I might argue that ours is not as righteous as you say.

Why do the hate us? It has more to do with Israel and colonization than with our “freedom” and prosperity, which the “Arab street” may envy, but does not hate. They have been on a war footing for hundreds of years due to colonization and the imposition of western troops etc. since the British and other Europeans occupied their lands starting 200 years ago. Do you not notice that fundamentalism and religious fervor increased here after 9/11, embracing core values is the same everywhere when a society is under siege. If not for our bombing and imperialism of the Arab world, radical Islam probably would not be so great a force. At the same time, the U.S. has become more reactionary as well. I remember a time when extreme reactionary Christians were considered out of the main stream... now they’re running the government.

Why do the hate us? Maybe it’s because when we go after the bad guys, we also kill large numbers of their innocents, look at Dresden, Hiroshima, Vietnam, Wounded Knee, etc. Until the WTC terror attack, we had not suffered any large civilian casualties since the Indian wars and even then we wiped out the “enemy” including their women and children, be it with bullets or small pox laden blankets.

If one group’s aim is subjugation through “legal” means and another’s aim is evicting a foreign army and it uses violent means, which is right? In the end they

are both aiming to survive and flourish and it's a damn shame that those who suffer most are the innocent and those who benefit are wealthy profiteers.

You are the smartest at using the world system to achieve your goals and you would probably be the smartest at utilizing any world system. Unfortunately, you are as exploitative as anyone else and although you have done enormous good, you have also done enormous harm. In social engineering, as well as in chemical or mechanical engineering, man's wisdom lags far behind his technology.

Maybe you've done the best you can considering that many other formidable peoples are after the same limited bounty - things are sometimes more complicated than we'd like to believe.

Most of us have known people that are brilliant but lack common sense, this might also be true in general of a group of very intelligent people. That doesn't make it any easier to resist their pursuit of what they define as world "progress." Case in point, the Palestinians may have little hope of ending up any different than those pesky Indians that troubled U.S. for several hundred years. The question is how long it will take for Israel and the U.S. to pacify or eliminate these latest natives who wear funny hats.

Though both are horrible, is it worse to blow up young people in a disco in a land their parents have taken by force, or to blow up a man fighting that powerful nation in his bed with a missile or by booby trapping his car or cell phone so it blows his head off? Or what's worse, killing 2,889 civilians in a building of a nation that has financed and supported the stealing of another peoples nation, or killing 250,000 civilians in a few seconds in Japan with atomic bombs? In either case, war is hell and many people say, all is fair in love and war? The Arabs believe that the U.S. has been at war with them for decades, so they justify bringing the war to U.S. shores, just as the U.S. and Israel have brought the war to Arab lands for decades, what are the casualty figures on both sides, both civilian and military?

If the Red Coats could have killed Washington and Jefferson in their beds, with high tech weapons, they probably would have. Were Washington and Jefferson freedom fighters or terrorists? Ask the slaves they owned and the Indians whose land Washington surveyed and both he and Jefferson appropriated.

If it's true as they say that history is written by the victors and note that Winston Churchill said, "history will be kind to me, because I intend to write it", then how can the truth actually be told?

"There may be a bullet out there with your name on it, but there are lots of bullets that just have fool written on them !"...news director to his combat camera people.

The Judeo Christian world is also at war with the Islamic world, driven mostly, I think by fear, hatred, superstition and power lusting leaders. I don't expect you to believe this however, and I believe you are probably unstoppable, what with your

war machines, endless capital and technology. The Arabs and other Moslem people are kind of like those pesky Indians were.. and look what happened to them and to the lands they once controlled.

These sellouts don't care, after all, the change won't come during their tenure. Eventually though, despite their treason against the constitution and the laws of nature, their constituents won't need them anymore. The churches and legislatures will change and freedom will again proves how frail it is. "Pure" democracy will reward those that pander to the special interest groups and the masses that demand redistribution along socialist lines. Once enough people will realize that pure democracy grants the unproductive the right to take from the productive, the jig is up.

The Middle East... it's a deadly, insane game of 'got you last' and what came first, the chicken or the egg.

There can never be peace on earth, at least not until the great people decide that they are no better, no more privileged and no more entitled than the Arabs, the Hottentots or anyone else. Meanwhile I'm stuck inside Hoboken with the Indy blues again...so to speak.

Might makes right, no matter what the fight and power comes from the barrel of a gun, this is the sad truth.

Ask the people of Jenin

"In a perfect world"... that's the saying, but there never was one and there never will, at least not on earth, maybe it's perfect in heaven, but that's debatable. You can follow your saviors, messiahs and enlightened ones... their "truth" has always been sprinkled with lies... like the rest of us.

The average American calls him or herself a Christian and, Christians are taught that God gave the land of Palestine to the Jews. It makes no sense to argue against the Jews' right to push the Palestinians from their land, because as far as the average American is concerned, I might as well be arguing against Jesus.

Never mind that in the future, the Jews and Christians may be at each other throats... again. Their leaders know that and are probably preparing for that, but for now they are focused on their "common enemy."

Being stubborn or a fool, I will argue this point anyway. What gave the UN the right to give half the land of Palestine to the Jews? What gave the Brits the right to hold Palestine as a protectorate? You say the Ottoman's were cruel rulers over Palestine and the Brits were better, I say the Ottoman's couldn't have been as bad as the Brits ... after all, they never gave the country away! You can blame them for lots of things, they may have even stolen land from the natives, but I don't think it

was on anything near the scale that the Israelis have. I don't think the Ottomans attempted to destroy the Palestinians culture, meanwhile, the Israelis are constantly changing the "facts on the ground"... in their own favor. As fellow Muslims, the Turks had no reason to change the landscape and culture into a Jewish state.

Why did the Brits give away Palestine? Many of us know about the Stern Gang and other Jewish terrorist groups that through bombings may have influenced the Brits. Since they say "follow the money", I wonder if there was a trail of mammon money and influence that leads from Tel Aviv and Haifa, to London and New York and Washington. Those rare Americans that don't accept that God gave Palestine to the Jews, typically dislike Arabs and Muslims anyway. The reasons may be valid in some cases and invalid in others, due to Hollywood and media stereotypes. Do you know who has always controlled the Hollywood studios and who pretty much owns controlling interests in the news media as well?

What will happen to the Arabs, will we end up a dead end like the Neanderthals, or on reservations like the Indians? We have traits in common with both those races, like the Indians, we wear "funny hats" and express spirituality differently, but despite our violent reputations, I think that we are as peace loving as anyone. Do we lack some of the traits needed to survive in the modern world... I don't think so. We are historically tribal not collective, we do not believe in the same vision of manifest destiny and we can not play the chess of war as well as you.

The pundits on Fox and CNN just don't seem to understand, that some people, basically about a billion of us, don't believe God gave Palestine to the Jews, we believe the country was instead, stolen from the Palestinians. They talk about the facts on the ground, this and that, but they are also continuing to bulldoze the olive groves and the homes of the Palestinians. How can the Israelis loose? They have been preparing for this "return" for two thousand years, while the indigenous people were just living their lives. They say the Palestinians should be taken in by the surrounding Arab countries and they say "why don't their Arab brothers take them in and help them?" It doesn't take much gray matter to see that resettlement in other Arab countries would fit the Israelis program precisely, it would once again change the "fact on the ground" in their favor.

In the end, it's just another tragic round of human history, disastrous for one people and glorious for the other. To the victor goes the spoils and the story will be written by those that had the might to make their side "right."

Just listened to "Ballad of the Green Berets" for third time in a row...tears came to my eyes.. but one line stood out... "he has died for those oppressed"...this is true sometimes and other times a sad falsehood. It makes me wonder, how many brave men have died, how many have been canon fodder for the rich, the idle (rich and poor) and for sick societies. The tree of freedom is watered with the blood of

patriots and so are other trees that should instead have been cut down.

Politics and religion...these 'necessary evils', historically have largely been about taking care of us and ours at the expense of them and theirs.

I can't discuss the Middle East with my neighbors, they have been taught to believe that the Jews are God's chosen people and that the "holy land" belongs them. I am skeptical of that, they are unlikely to persuade me, I am unlikely to persuade them...end of story, I guess.

I hope the warmongers on both sides get slapped down, but sadly it's the young men and the innocent civilians that will suffer.

"No one's gone make me move, no one's gonna make me change the way I live, no one's gonna scare me"...these are few things I've heard repeated a hundred times since the atrocities of September 11. In the last umpteen years, we've made a lot of people move, we've scared a lot of people and we've made a lot of people change the way they live, often for the worse...sooner or later the chickens come home to roost.

I have several quotes today:

- 1. "It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world" ...George Washington**
- 2. Don't worry about American pressure on Israel. We, the Jewish people, control America, and the Americans know it."... Ariel Sharon**
- 3. Might makes right no matter what the fight...anonymous**
- 4. "When you start from the position that you are the chosen of God and the rest of us are not, we have a problem"...kgw**
- 5. Regarding Israel, the average America tends to believe that ... the Bible gives them the land, they believe it and that settles it.**

God supposedly told the Jews they can have Palestine...many influential Americans believe this is true. This belief justifies anything they have to do to control Palestine and it de-legitimizes anything the Palestinians might do to fight for the liberation of their land.

On the ABC morning show today, 9/10/02 famous lawyer Alan Dershowitz said something to the effect of terrorists are people that deliberately target civilians. This makes the Palestinians terrorists, but not "them" who it can be argued do the same, or the allies who deliberately nuked Japanese civilians and killed hundreds of

thousands of Germans with incendiary bombs. The ends justified the means we were told, these countries were the aggressors. Might makes right and the history of the victors is the one that is read.

Israel to the Palestinians; live as subjects or leave...resist and you will suffer or die...you will never be treated equally. Meanwhile, the U.S. pays for the Israeli confiscation of more Palestinian land, via more Jewish settlements and munitions.

Take everything I write with a grain of salt...I usually write when the news of the day or something else has upset me. I'm trying to work things out and if ever edited in a calmer moment would revise much of this.

My opinion is irrelevant, since I will not persuade you of anything, that is why I am reluctant to engage in publically intercourse on the subject. The Bible says "it", Americans by and large believe it and that settles it. Never mind what George W, A. Sharon and anonymous said.

TPTB, will do anything to stay TPTB. They see that in a few years, others will have; nukes, stingers, more effective missile defense systems etc. ... the monopoly will come to an end. They want to eradicate their "enemies" while the window of opportunity is open. TPTB have never shrunk from killing civilians when "necessary"...Indian wars, Dresden, Hiroshima etc. The death of enemy civilians is quite simply collateral damage. Don't be too comfortable, in TPTB's eyes the sacrifice of their own subjects, is a similar cost of doing business, just another accounting entry in their history book.

I was waiting for a plane and a guy at Newark Airport said "the only language they understand is an M16"...it occurs to me, that's the only language we speak anyway.

Some people have a sense of history, some have a sense of fashion or style. I'm tired of those in the second category making important decisions for me.

Rumsfeld?...he's a lying %#@&^#+, they all are...who isn't? You?

Some things haven't changed...some things never will.

We rail against the Islamic theocracies and rightly so...but consider this, Israel despite it's democratic process is at its heart also a religious theocracy... albeit one where the majority are secular, except when that's inconvenient.

National Public Radio is presenting a program providing "context" to the conflict in the Middle East. Well, you can take your "context" and cram it. Your context will not restore the dead or restore their land, it will only excuse their extermination.

What is more horrible...random bloody murder of civilians, ie. terrorism, or the scientific destruction of the enemy with it's equal numbers of murdered civilians, via collateral damage? I would compare it to the argument about hunting for meat or buying it at the store, in both cases, the animal is butchered and eaten in the end. Neither side in war is vegetarian and neither side is as "holy" right as they proclaim to be.

The war on Terror, is basically a clash of civilizations, Christian and Muslim. The state of Israel is about grabbing land... just as it was when King David and his compatriots tried to ethnically cleanse Palestine 3,000 years ago. It's more convenient to do it in increments than to commit full scale and quick genocide, that is not socially acceptable. Bulldoze a dozen houses here, for a security corridor, and chop down an olive grove there for a new Jewish settlement... do it mostly by degrees. Then initiate bigger "responses" to "terrorist" attacks by the natives who are fighting for their land and survival. Capture their leaders, torture them a bit, or allow them to be thoroughly tortured in other countries and increase surveillance on the people until, in America at least, the police state is complete... In the end, everything is inevitable.

Okay, give one side Jerusalem and the other side gets New York City. Or at least Dearborn, Michigan and Brooklyn.

We fought a war against a king for our independence, now we fight to keep corrupt kings and princes in power...all for the sake of oil and religion. On the home front, the sheeple have voted to give the police more powers over the American people than King George and his Red Coats could have dreamt of.

When you go around saying, God gave this country to us, don't be surprised if you piss people off, especially the ones living there. So far the powerful have been successful pursuing their objectives, based on the belief in their own manifest destiny. Maybe you can get your way forever, maybe you can't. When you invent weapons of mass destruction and proliferate them, don't be surprised if they come back to bite you on the ass. Man never learns, even today, the U.S.A. regularly introduces terrible new weapons to unleash on the enemy, JDAMS, shoulder fired missiles, bunker busters, etc., but do you expect these will not some day be used on your people? Do you expect the baloney about only your use of them being "just"-to save you? The size of the lie is a factor in causing it to be believed and surely you repeat it often enough, but as the Bible says, "they sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind"...Hosea 8:1-14.

You know we're going to war, when this time, even the vegetarians are screaming for blood.

If we weren't complicit in the theft of nations, we'd have very little to worry about from their people. You might ask yourself, why historically, have they been kicked out of country after country? There might be more to it than their usual patter about jealousy.

Iraq? I'm not sure I even have a dog in that fight, but I am half Arab, so I have more than just a passing interest. I hope for peace and justice for the people there, the Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds, Turkomans, Chaldeans and the rest.

I'll take Dick Armev over Trent Lott any day and I'd take damn near anyone over John Ashcroft. Yes, Canada, Bush is a moron... a very cruel, cowardly and orchestrated one.

Nov. 11, 2002 Bush to the world, especially Iraq; we will set you free from Saddam Hussein, but if you resist, we will destroy you... not said, but understood is, if you use WMDs, we can always nuke you. Funny thing happened on the way to the war, no WMDs were found...

I do not support Israel unconditionally, I don't support Israel period, if that means I am not a loyal American, then so be it. As far as I know, the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and founding fathers said nothing about us fighting to the end for Israel. In fact, George Washington said, "it is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world."

Can there be world peace? I hope so, but it may be more a question of whether or not the "powers that be", succeed in their goals for control of oil rich regions and the institution of a world welfare based government for the herd, controlled by the elite. The U.S., Britain and to a lesser extent the rest of Europe will supply the armies, the elite will supply the brains and the bank credits.

Christianity is the ultimate success, who can make war with the techno-military states of Christendom? Peter Spielberg, move over, the stories of ET and Star Wars don't hold a candle to the passion play of Jesus Christ. Paul of Tarsus was the greater marketing genius, how can you compete with miracles that happened 2,000 years before any type of accurate verification was available? Christianity offers the ultimate carrot and holds the supreme stick, the future of the earth apparently is Christian.

Once in power, which is what organized religions seem to be after, Christianity and Islam tend to oppress the outsider, while attempting to have them become insiders. Their goals seem to be quantity, not quality, while Judaism, which also mistreats outsiders, seeks quality recruits. What do they have to bring to the table, so to speak. Are the rich, famous, beautiful, intelligent, athletic? All three religions seek control, dominion and are constantly on the grab and this appeals to the average greedy, needy human, of which each of us can be counted. We all want to be protected, to be on the winning side and Christianity offers the greatest prizes, no one can compete with their winning formula and in the end, all will probably be subjugated, for better or for worse. Each enemy will be approached and conquered in a timely manner and time is no obstacle. Finally the brown Christian earth will live in peace, or turn on itself, or possibly turn its full energy to converting those who may have escaped to outer space.

You may be the smartest people in the world, but intelligence does not always translate into wisdom or common sense.

I suppose it's not even ironic, that the people calling the shots, are seldom the ones killed by them.

I want neither their destruction or their supremacy via influence over the financial markets and media. The world needs them and I think they need the world, can't we find a middle ground?

Is 'Christian' America better than the rest of the world? If it is, why have we resorted to war so many times in our history? WWJB?

The fact that your boys' wear smart looking uniforms, does not absolve them, or you of blame and culpability in the 'collateral' killings of civilians.

Admit it, you want to have things your way and you don't give a damn who, or how many you have to kill to achieve it.

Fox News 1/18/03 9:41am, I'm upstairs, the TV is downstairs, so I'm not sure I heard this right, but did the talking head say "humanitarian attack?"...if so, chalk up another coup for our brave new world's "new speak."

The west often uses ideas from the game of Chess to formulate it's foreign policy, Asians use the game of "GoH"...Professor Han Park.

If you're for their historic claim to Palestine, why haven't you offered your property

back to the Native Americans? If you are for their claim to Palestine, why are you against reparations for the slaves? Is it because this is a religious matter? Oh, you say yes, or yes maybe, but it's also because of democracy or strategic matters or this or that. Okay, great people, great empire... time will tell if you have feet of clay.

You may be the smartest people, but that doesn't automatically make you the wisest. In the world of geopolitics, I guess that helps, but what really matters, is that you're the best financed, armed and prepared. You are probably the premier chess players in the world and you have squared off against players of backgammon and other games less cerebral than your chess. If I were to guess, I'd say chess which leave little to chance, trumps backgammon which includes a large element of the luck of the dice. So it seems that it doesn't matter who's right... as usual, it just matters who has might.

If a "democracy" is founded by a bunch of like minded rogues whose goals are profit and plunder and usurp, then how is it better than fascism or communism? It seems all these systems are simply out to control people, production, resources and power.

I don't believe in countries, patriotism or organized religions, I just believe in peace, justice and freedom... rather absurd isn't it.

Iraq?...Two wrongs don't make a right, nor do a thousand.

Sure go after Saddam Hussein, take him out, but don't kill ten thousand Iraqis in the process, destroy their infrastructure and award the reconstruction contracts to your cronies...fat chance you'll listen!

If our hope, faith and belief in salvation or eternal life is wrapped up in religious dogma and so is "the enemy's", then how can this world ever have peace.

You are patriotic, join churches and other groups to be saved, secure, and strong. None of your groups make me feel any of those things, I just feel like I'm part of a mob at a concert or ball game, cheering for "our side." For better or worse, I am presently standing or hanging alone. My very fallible conscience and desires guide me and they are not to your liking, you would constrain them... I can't.

A suicide bombing today, it's wrong, it's terrible, but I'm not sure it's worse to kill people from three feet away than from 3 miles in the air...both are tragedies and crimes.

I write English like Arabic when I'm in a hurry...what am I to make of that. When

I was little a sang, a song about Saudi Arabia... land where I was born. Does that mean anything? I'm for the Palestinians in a guttural way, is that just my upbringing, or can I be feeling things in my bones or soul?

Mechanized war and it's collateral damage is not that far removed from terrorism. In both cases, there is a statistical certainty that innocents and non-combatants will be blown to bits...in one case it's from 10 feet in another it's from 10,000. The popular "Just War Theory" implies that those killed by the war machine are unfortunate collateral damage, since they weren't the intended target. Peter Ustinoff said,..."Terrorism is war by the poor and war is terrorism by the rich." Saint Dominic said..."Kill them all. Let God sort them out!" I say, you who kill innocents while attempting to kill the guilty are treading on very shaky ground!

On the other hand, America has liberated the Iraqis from a very brutal dictator and given them a chance to enjoy the gift of freedom...if they can handle it. As with any gift it's best given with no strings attached, and an expectation of nothing more than a heart felt thank you. Is that what we are expecting?

Your democracy is nothing more than a grab, as is religion and all other forms of institutionalized control over humankind. Every time there is an election, I loose more of my God given and constitutional rights. There isn't a soul on earth that doesn't have an agenda, there isn't a group that doesn't seek power and there isn't a free man on earth. Well, I'm glad I got that out of my system, now off to another wonderful day!

How can you live in a country and not become a proponent of, or at least be influenced by the policies it follows to promote its self interests? Take Americans and pot laws or Americans and Middle East policy. In both cases, Americans generally accept the pronouncements of the "powers that be" and we have arguably self-serving or counter-productive policies and laws. When I was young, virtually all my friends smoked at least a bit, now they mostly don't, and they support the laws they formerly decried. They also don't care, know about, or just turn a blind eye to the effects of pot laws that have sent hundreds of thousands of young men and women to jail. In prison, many thousands of non-violent pot law violators, have been raped and sodomized, only to be eventually released in various states of emotional distress. After just returning from Canada, I saw a country that is not, at least visibly, full of aggressive, demanding people intent or content with their nation dominating everything and everyone...oh well, someone has to do it.

WWJB (Who Would Jesus Bomb?)

The Israeli said he wouldn't give up one inch of land...the Palestinian said he wouldn't give up one centimeter of Palestine...they can't even agree on units of

measurement.

If the possibility of Iraq blackmailing the world with it's WMDs was enough to justify an invasion, why don't we care that Israel has about 200 nukes and a much greater ability to blackmail the rest of the world? Oh, yeah I forgot, they don't have to blackmail anyone, they own the U.S.; lock, stock, barrel, mortgage, lien and soul.

I will not argue that you aren't the smartest people in the world, even though it can be debated. All those brains, however, do not necessarily make you; wise, righteous or in my opinion chosen above others. Do I believe in this country or that country having the right to exist? Who cares, what I think, but if you ask, I could care less about any country's right to exist, than in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness wherever you are.

As a species, we seem willing to kill each other to get our way. We do it either directly, or through surrogates. Usually these are our young men, they are like the soldier ants in a colony, except unlike the ants our defenders are generally male. Our soldiers do the dirty work and we praise them for being willing to die for noble "causes and ideals." Actually they are naive and really more willing to kill than die for these ideals... might makes right, no matter what the fight. Our young men need work and killing pays... you also get to wear uniforms that women love and to play with the latest high tech war toys.

If one tenth of what they say is true, then Saddam Hussein is or was a monster. That doesn't mean that the Arabs don't need strong leaders who will deal harshly with collaborators, who inform on their brothers for Crusader or Israeli money.

The Incas had gold, the Indians had land and natural resources...they don't anymore...hmmm?

Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Palestine, wherever the Crusaders pursue the war on terror, they are also waging a religious and cultural war. Joe six-pack doesn't like Arab food, looks or religion and they have something he wants...oil. The end result, as usual is to give them a chance to convert to our ways and if that doesn't work, "kill them all. Let God sort them out", like "Saint" Dominic instructed at the genocide of the Albigensians. A God ordained and righteous grab, is as old as Adam and as American as apple pie.

Like you I'm looking out first for me and my loved ones, second for "my" people and lastly for everyone else... unlike you, I'm admitting it.

It's one thing to respect others, it's something else to submit to there unjust demands...your ship should not go down without a fight.

It's interesting how our Middle East policy is based on an absolute intention to preserve a foreign nation that was arguably founded through chicanery by a group of invaders that base their claim to the land on a 3,000 year old "covenant" with God. This despite the fact that our government is supposed to constitutionally mandate separation of church and state. It also flies in the face of George Washington's farewell address warning us not enter into permanent foreign alliances. There is also archeological evidence that the ancient Israelites never controlled all of Palestine even at the peak of their power and despite their genocidal attacks on the native peoples.

"A kinder gentler machine gun hand", is a line from a Neil Young song that came out in the late 1980s, during the first George Bush administration. Now we have another "low intensity" religious war raging and it brings to mind George Orwell's prediction of a time of "perpetual war." This time the prize is oil, not gold, but once again the prize is innocent lives and once again you're content, as your Saint Dominic said to, "Kill them all. Let God sort them out!"

The retired master sergeant who had served for 26 years said on C-SPAN today (8/13/03), that "Rumsfeld cares about American soldiers, like Tyson cares about chickens." I would add that he probably cares about Iraqis like Hitler cared about Jews.

Personally, I believe the human race needs everyone; Jews, Arabs, Blacks, Whites, Asians, Polynesians, South Sea Islanders, Australian and Maoris, Native Americans of all types and any other ethnic and racial groups there are. We have already lost peoples throughout history and that is a tragedy... in the Bible alone, there are several ancient peoples mentioned who I believe were lost forever. What we don't need are attitudes that any particular groups of people, are for any reason, superior to others.

The Brits don't get it and probably never will...neither will anyone else that thinks they have a monopoly on brains and the truth. Independent people the world over don't need you telling them how to live and what is right. On the other hand, honor killing, female genital mutilation and the like are utterly wrong. These and other horrific practices should be ended by the people that practice them, then they may have a claim to the moral high ground and can in good conscience keep the rest of their cultures values.

http://www.kitcomm.com/cgi-bin/comments/gold/display_short.cgi

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BIG BOB (Great Lies Propounded by The Propogandists...) ID#117306:

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Friends:

Those Opposed to the War
Are Opposed to the Troops
And Are, Therefore, Traitors.

Those Opposed to Expansive Zionism
Are Opposed to the Jews
And, Therefore, Favour Holocausts and are Racists.

Those Opposed to Immigration
Are Opposed to the Hispanics
And, Therefore, Are Racists.

Those Opposed to Welfare
Are Opposed to Blacks
And, Therefore, Are Racists.

Those Opposed to Gay Marriage
Are Opposed to Gays
And Are, Therefore, Biggots.

I could go on-and-on but why bother.
The use of this specious "logic"
By both so-called Leftists and Rightists
Should be your Tip-Off
That the argument you are Embarked On
Is a COMPLETE waste of your time.

This
And Immediately Questioning
The Motive and Principle of Your Opponent
Are the Mental Regalia of the "True Believers"

We have many examples who share their "Pearls of Wizz-Dumb" Here

Scroll and Roll, People...
Scroll and Roll.....

Big Bob

8/21/03 I'm listening to Tom Friedman on NPR, he's the darling of most conservatives and seen as objective on Palestinian issue...are you kidding?

I read a few lines from Mien Kampf, too extreme, too simplistic, some truth but obviously Hitler was criminally insane to the max.

Are America's current military actions in the Middle East a crusade in the true sense of the word? I believe they are a crusade, as our religiously ideological president said after 9/11. The more reactionary Christians have garnered tremendous power in the U.S. government, along with neocons and corporate profiteers. Of course I could be completely wrong and this could be Gods will and plan in action?

The same goes for democracy, I don't see it as the ultimate form of government after all. At least if you have a benevolent despot, things can get done without special interest groups screwing things up. The trick is finding a benevolent despot, since a tyrannical despot is probably the worse form of government. The point is, that with democracy things can go just as wrong as any other form... especially if the system of checks and balances can be rigged or circumvented. A just ruler who is answerable to a council, or a council without a powerful chief, may be better able to protect the people's constitutional, natural and human rights than a democracy that is controlled by big money or special interest groups. If Jesus with his rod of iron is the ultimate form of government, then anything else pales in comparison. In America today, the two major interest groups, are the rich, who greatly influence the government with their dollars and the masses who influence the electorate by virtue of their numbers at the polls. Both are a problem, because that they lobby endlessly for handouts to make their lives easier...not an unexpected situation. Add to those groups several other powerful special interest groups and you have the makings of a monotonous mélange of intractability. The best that can be said of such a system is that these opposing groups often cancel each other's agendas out, or at least slow down the mischief and thievery that each has in mind.

Some things never change, young men are still keen to kill the "enemy" and young women still are attracted to men in uniforms. Both traits must have their roots in history or evolution, but I can't see either as a particularly good thing at this time in

history. If we are to ever break the cycle of violence and war, then the traditions that encourage war should be discouraged.

My daughter mentions how in history class they discussed a quote by Voltaire? It was something like, “the people will never be free, until the last king is strangled to death with the entrails of the last pope.” It reminds me of the quote by the ex-gulag prisoner who became politician in occupied Palestine and who spoke about free versus fear societies. I like Voltaire’s quote and believe in it, at the very least in principal. The Brits like their monarchs and see them as a rallying point, but for what? Subjugation of others all around the world? Daughter and I discussed the quote and she said one of her class mates, a refugee from Bosnia I believe, supported it, at least for in the old days in Europe.

I support it now more than ever, when our demented, simple minded, dry drunk president thinks that God tells him to invade Iraq. When our VP, Cheney the former top executive at Halibuton gets rich from his companies stock skyrocketing due to no bid contracts in Iraq, when the religious “right” has taken over our government and military academies, when the oil companies and politicians have taken over the role of kings and princes, when the reactionary protestant church has taken over the role of the Popedom, then I would like to see them all figuratively strangled with each others intestines... at least throw them and the royal family of Britain out on the street and give them all brooms.

We seem to truly hate or fear our “enemies”, since we so readily to send our children off to kill or be killed. Sad thing is, it’s rarely the powerful who send their boys and girls off to war.

The problem is that we have aided and utterly abetted the occupation and theft of Palestine. Americans will never admit it, because we are a nation of nation stealers. We will instead continue with our belief in our own superiority and our manifest destiny. Despite the changing demographics...politically, America is now as much as ever a Christian nation. Unlike at our inception, it is now treasonous not to support Israel, which I find no where in the Constitution. Is there any way to go back to a semblance of sanity? I fear that as long as might makes right and money talks, there is no chance for sanity and justice to prevail.

Let’s see...the Democrats are influenced by AIPAC money and the Republicans seem swayed by reactionary Christian funds. Can either party’s candidate be an unbiased broker for Middle East peace? I don’t think so.

“War is fought by children, not by Frank Sinatra and John Wayne...war is murder and war veterans committed murder”...Kurt Vonegot on the radio 9/10/03

The boys and girls we send to war are impressionable children, they come back as adults, but what else are they when they come back?

Both sides say that God is on their side...I can't fathom that God would be on either of these sides...but what do I know.

I'm trying to remember when being a loyal American and owing ones allegiance to Israel became one and the same. So far I don't recall how that got started, maybe you can help jog my memory. I do remember that George Washington said, "it is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world." Oh, I forgot, the old George is being written out of the history books and the new president George will replace him...along with our freedoms.

Most of the worlds people are not reactionary Muslims, reactionary Christian or any other strain of religious zealotry. It's too bad that the these minorities, have brought the world to the brink of catastrophe.

I was raised to believe there is always hope for peace, compromise and reconciliation, even for the most difficult situations. There are some cases however, where a happy ending may be almost an impossible dream... that is why we should all be dreamers...

Moslems, please give women equal rights, but not more rights than you have... like we have done in the west. Stop terrorizing your own people, stop torturing people, stop female genital mutilation, stop honor killing of your women, make the veil truly voluntary...do these things and maybe God will smile on you. Is it not inevitable that those who won't change a little from within, are often changed greatly by outsiders?

I think the veil and fundamentalism in general is to some extent a reaction to western abuse of Middle Eastern peoples, but in my opinion, it is unfortunate. After World War One, the Arab world could have been poised for success but that potential was undermined by the west's self-serving policies towards the region. The western powers commercial ambitions and the Zionist's colonial intrusions made the tribes and nations ripe to embrace Islamic fundamentalism.

If crusaders, like; Napoleon, Brits, French and American armies were not constantly stomping around the Middle East, perhaps the Prophets people would not constantly be on a war footing. Being half Arab and despite what you think, I may be less biased than our government and I think find it natural that strong men have ruled the Middle East. Being subject to constant invasion, what else would you expect than war footing and martial law? It's tragic, but not surprising, that tyrannical governments, such as secular Saddam and the reactionary house of Saud have sprouted. The west, Israel and the Arabs have created a mess of Biblical and

historic proportions in the Middle East.

It's 9/11/03 and the radio is full of references to 9/11 being the worst case of terrorism against America ever. I wondered why they didn't just call it the worst case of terrorism ever? Are they afraid that would open a can of worms? I kept trying to think of an attack on innocent civilians somewhere in the world that had killed more noncombatant men, women and children...and then I remembered...Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Tokyo and Dresden...the first three America's doing the third England's. Then the radio commentator started to discuss a new book about the true meaning of "Evil" and after listening to their white washing of the subject before going to my next appointment, it occurred to me that, "Evil", like so many things, largely in the eye of the beholder.

First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the Communists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me
and there was no one left
to speak out for me...
Pastor Martin Niemöller

Logic tell us that no one can have everything they want... regardless, most of us try for that. The same is true for nations, they always try to get their way... sometimes through compromise and sometimes through diplomacy of the last resort... war. If Muslim nations would extend equal rights to women (without giving away the farm), stop torturing and oppressing their people...if Israel would give up it's attitude that they are always right and can do no wrong...if the U.S.A. would give up it's attitude that it's always right and it's willingness to use force to enforce it's wishes, then quite possible there could be peace on earth. That would just leave the rest of the world to try to get along with...

First Charlotte Beers, now the new guy...please!!! They're trying to improve the USA's image in the Middle East, via Madison Avenue methods and magic. Meanwhile we treat the Arabs like we treated the Sioux. This time, instead of stealing the black hills, we're stealing the black gold and instead of demanding to know how our gold got under their dirt, we ask how did our oil get under your sand. Why should we expect them to like us...why should we expect that they won't resist our "liberation?"

Now they're talking about building an oil pipeline from Iraq to Israel...what could be more blatant imperialism?

Who-ah! We've had presidents who were real soldiers and they took their uniforms off when they assumed office. Now we have a president who arguably was never really a soldier, yet he puts on an air force jump suit for photo ops and sends the real soldiers in to harms way.

Little Ali from Baghdad, lost some members of his family and had his arms blown off by a missile during the allied invasion of 2003. "What an inspiring story...good to see him on the mend", the CNN anchors say cheerfully as their TV report concludes. The wonderful doctors in England have given him artificial arms and now he can do many normal tasks again. They mention that he can't wait to hug his surviving sister or sisters, that will be wonderful, but not quite as good as if he still had his real arms. The doctors in England are to be commended, but without the British people's support for the war, there would be no need to "mend" Ali in the first place.

If you don't change on your own, they will come from the outside to change you...look at Iraq. Russia changed from inside this time and the transition hasn't been as tumultuous as in Iraq...Saudi Arabia had better look out and some day even America may have reason to fear.

I don't believe in a Jewish conspiracy...I believe that many capable people, both Jewish and Christian are determined to bring about particular outcomes on the world stage. They have been working hard for to full fill their prophecies for two thousand years. There have been Templars, Maccabees, Zionists and now neocons, all determined to wrest control of the Middle East from the natives.

Nine eleven? Terrible, horrible, wrong, inexcusable, criminal and un-justifiable...but not unimaginable. Why did Al Qaeda think such an attack was it was necessary? GWB, Charlotte Beers, the neocons and the CFR have explained it all to

us and you're satisfied. Well... how many Muslim people and buildings have been killed or flattened by America or American weapons? Is it that strange they would eventually strike back?

They keep talking about all the good that's been done in Iraq. Maybe it's true, but I wonder about all the schools that have been rebuilt...were there really that many that were destroyed? If so, when and by whom? Does rebuilding mean bricks and mortar, or does it mean new books that teach history from a more "acceptable" point of view? A new point of view might be fine, but if we are trying to propagandize to indoctrinate Iraqi children with our own biases, look out!

Funny how some of the most peace loving Americans, those who wouldn't eat a fish, or step on an ant, have no problem with us blowing Arabs to kingdom come. As long as we kill the "bad" Arabs... those that won't submit to our superior wisdom.

Being president is kind of like being an old fashioned king or a dictator for 4 or 8 years...one way or another you can do darn near anything you want.

Christ's message may have more appeal to the average person than any other savior, but Islam's Paradise may trump Heaven as a place the average guy would like to go. This might help lightly armed Jihadis compete with their better equipped crusader foes. Once WMDs enter the equation, anything goes and all bets are off...when it's over, who ever is left may want to compromise and listen to reason, or they could be nasty and embark on a mopping up exercise. I hope that at some point even the reactionaries on both side consider listening to reason. It could occur out of desperation or sanity and who knows we might even hear them decide that everyone has the right to worship according to the dictates of their conscience, or even to not worship.

The Middle East, the Arab world? Yes, it's a mess over there, things are in terrible shape. Historically it has often been invaded and colonized by outsiders who demanded, the land and riches... or else. The terrible shape it's in, may be in large part due to the inroads and mischief of foreign powers. This time we may have set them back another 100 years. Starting with French and British crusaders and then these same countries imperialism, then Zionism, oil companies and now the Bush

war, the Arab backlash against your conquests has indeed been extreme. Remove all of the above intrusions and the region may have developed more rationally. Since you are determined to bend the Arabs to your will, you will end up killing huge numbers of them or you might be driven out. Do the Arabs want “true democracy”, a “republican form of democracy”, dictators, kings or something else? What many of them probably “see through”, is the west’s attempt to steal their resources and mold them into modern consumer states. If this is successful, western banks and Middle Eastern collaborators will run the show. Many Middle Easterners don’t want to be your wage and debt slaves. Unfortunately dictators and puppet government have been their response to the west and the losers are the Arab people.

Two more US soldiers were killed today in Iraq, they had their throats slashed while sitting in traffic according to the report (later the military denied the throat slashing.) That’s horrible, disgusting, sick and such violence shouldn’t be inflicted on anyone. It is legitimate to brand the killers beasts and butchers. But where is the outcry when coalition bombers drop bombs from air conditioned jets five miles up, killing and maiming innocent civilians? It’s like hunting versus going to the supermarket...in hunting you get up close and personal to kill the bird or deer, at the grocery store your meat is packaged like a cube of tofu. It’s ironic that even vegetarians and other “peace loving” people rationalize high altitude bombing, but decry the brutal tactics of Jihadis. Being a bomber pilot sounds like playing video games in a car, more technology is involved, but is there any more remorse or accountability for the end result? Whether its throat slitting or bombing, the result is a corpse and traumatized families.

The Bible describes ancient Israel’s severe policies towards the indigenous people of the holy land. If it wasn’t for international opinion, I wonder what modern Israel’s policy towards the natives would be? Many millions of indigenous people died in the Americas at the hands of European conquerors, millions of African slaves died as well. Now at least we have a kinder gentler way of dealing with the tribes we decide to dislodge...right? Historically tribal people have been easy for the militaristic nation states to plunder, or as the nation states might put it to “civilize.”

Terms like the “occupational authority”, are double speak...they are an attempt to give legitimacy to the Iraqi invasion and the oil grab. The American people would be better served if our troops were guarding the border with Mexico. We could shut out illegal aliens, allow in those who apply legally and put welfare people to work for their checks.

They will do anything to get their way and you will do “what ever is necessary” to get your way. You both want to win so much, that you’re willing to destroy everything in sight to do so. After all your holy books and their holy books seem to tell both of you to kill each other. Ask the innocents of wounded knee, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Dresden etc., etc. how loving “your” God is.

If you don’t change for the better from the inside, you will usually be changed from the outside. Does that mean that God has ordained the change, or that people have, or that the intelligence of the universe has? I don’t know, I’m just making a general observation.

Take away the mandatory berka and or head scarf, stop torturing your people, give them full human rights, stop “honor” killing of your women, stop female genital mutilation...then maybe God will hear you.

Give women the vote in the Arab nations? Do what ever you want, but look at us and take heed. Extending the right to vote to everyone has elevated some people and lowered others. Has it made everyone equal? Well, how do you define equal? It has not eliminated discrimination in the work force, but it has given women control over the children and over the labor of the man...I say that stinks. I think the vote has become a tool to rob us of our constitutional rights. Pure democracy, a republican form of democracy or any other form of government that can preserve our constitutional rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is what I’m for. Any scheme that allows others to vote away my rights I will oppose, the tree of freedom must be watered from time to time...

If you criticize the current administration, the “popular” neocon media pundits call you an America hater. That couldn’t be further from the truth... being opposed to a particular presidential administration does not mean that in the least. Claiming it does, is simply a fascist tactic designed to deter true democracy and freedom of expression.

Does anyone else suspect that Wahhabism was at least in part a reaction to western, probably mostly British mischief in the Middle East starting in the 1700’s?

Sometimes when you steal things you have to give them back...even countries. This doesn’t happen very often, but look out, it might happen again, to anyone.

Despite my complaints, I’m not for the overthrow of the government, I’m just for the restoration of the constitution...whatever it takes.

I'm not a strict isolationist, but I don't think we should have military bases in the approximately 70 countries that we now do. We should get closer to what George Washington said, "it is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world."

Instead of the \$ 300 billion (and rising) spent to "liberate" and occupy Iraq, we could have invested it on, finding cures for:

**Cancer
Blindness
Diabetes
Heart disease
Paralysis
AIDs**

Stop the sex slave trade from eastern Europe and elsewhere that conduits young innocents through Mexico to the U.S.A. Or the \$ 300 billion (and rising) spent on Iraq, could be used to give \$ 1,000 for gasoline to every licensed driver who owns a car in America, after all, the war is for oil anyway.

You see lots of scenes of attacks against their civilians, by suicide bombers. The only dead Palestinians and Iraqis they show on the news are "terrorists, militants or insurgents" killed by helicopters, jets, tanks and missiles. Our pilots are unscathed, barely breaking a sweat in their air-conditioned cockpits and they don't see the Iraqi and Palestinian civilians that they have pulverized. All this killing is wrong, on both sides... two wrongs still don't make a right!

On the radio, 2/6/04, 11:15 am...Bush appointed Bremer, Bremer appointed 24 council members and they appointed 24 cabinet members, eight of whom are related to members of the council. It this democracy, demoruptcy, cronyism or what?

Many, of the human rights violations of Saddam Hussein occurred when US and British companies were supplying him with chemicals for his poison gas plants and he was our "friend"....hmm?

I would like to research the OSP (Office of Special Plans) which was under the direction of Donald Rumsfeld. Reportedly they largely came up with the plans for the Iraq invasion... what else are they hatching?

At Sharm al Sheik, NPR's guest reported that Bush told Mahmoud Abas (Palestinian PM) on 6/24/0? or 6/2/0? that God told him to attack Al Qaeda, and then to attack Iraq. This was supposedly leaked to the press and printed in Harretz

newspaper. Bush reportedly also said that if God hadn't intervened, he would be sitting in a bar in Texas and that he wasn't too sure he should run for pres., because his family wasn't so much for it...but God told him to run.

I am quite human, quite fragile, quite frail and quite flawed. I have no special insight or knowledge, just a singular viewpoint. I mostly just ask questions and raise issues...I'm not as good at providing answers. Some people are keen to provide the answers and claim to have the inside scoop... I think they're full of poop.

2/8/04 the radio this morning... a story about Israelis and Palestinians collaborating to re-write text books for Palestinian children. The goal is "peace and coexistence" between the two sides. They are including, "both sides of the story" of the 67' war etc. Sounds a lot like the way the news is presented "fair and balanced" by the media in the U.S. Who ultimately has the editorial control? Follow the money...who is financing this thing, that is whose views and interests are being projected and protected, even if its from behind a curtain or smoke screen.

If they want peace they should offer justice, or get the heck out of Palestine. If the Palestinians want peace and justice they should provide it for their people, their women their dissidents etc., then perhaps providence will smile on their cause.

I'm not surprised that the Palestinians use suicide bombers, nor am I surprised that Israel strike back with their high tech brand of warfare. I condemn both sides for blowing people up and shooting each other, but in light of human history, it is not surprising. Who do I condemn more? Well that's personal... if that's still allowed.

I may be an admit-ably biased chronicler and correspondent, but I believe being admittedly biased to be more honorable than being biased, while claiming neutrality. You can't help but realize, that I have a point of view and causes to champion. Some people will tell you they are giving you the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth, in a fair and balanced way...I say bunk!

On the radio today, they are talking about an Israeli human rights group protesting "the wall"...sounds to me like a bit of a subterfuge, but who knows?

In a nutshell, as long as humankind exists, in it's present form, there will be acrimony and conflict. We should do our utmost, to resolve these problems peacefully...but far too often we choose violent "solutions."

Now let me get this straight...several thousand years ago, your ancestors tried to ethnically cleanse the territory known as Canan, Philistine or whatever, because your leader said God told your people to do it. Although they were able to

exterminate a number of the tribes in the area, they never controlled all the land and were eventually driven out almost completely by the Romans. Then in the last century you and your relatives, who by now were widely dispersed and fabulously wealthy, bravely bribed and shot your way back into that territory and once again claimed it under the flag of God. Well, it looks like you did pretty darn good and it's unlikely that the tribes who you stole the land from this time, will ever get rid of you.

I am subject to attack by darn near everyone, leaving me with a very small constituency, perhaps a constituency of one...but someone has to speak for us. You can say, if you weren't so insecure about this, so jealous of that, so self centered, etc. then you'd be happy with the way things are. Like I said someone has to speak up, even for the most under-represented groups. Everyone should have a voice, even if we can't expect to change the world, there is nothing wrong with trying.

I complain about a lot of things... including about the policies of the white male dominated government and power structure. It is a criminal enterprise as much so as the mafia, the communist party or any other gang of hoods. I think I'll start calling the CIA -Crime, Inc. America. I've heard about Operation Condor - the CIA's operation in Chile in the days of the cold war. As we are doing now in the war on terror, back then, we embraced murderous regimes for a "greater" good. Such policies are dangerous, unethical and it's a darn shame that we don't even debate them.

I don't think that being critical of something makes my viewpoint right... I hope that I don't come across that way, but unfortunately I might. I would rather stimulate a few people to question the road they're on and to question the authorities. Not so much question authority, although that's often valid too, but mainly to question those exercising authority over us. These masters keep aiming us at walls and we keep smashing our heads into them... for their gain.

Religions that offer their members "special" status, such as being chosen, saved or superior are the top sellers in the marketplace for "souls." Its not surprising that their strategy of promising heaven for believers and hell for un-believers, has worked so well for so long...not surprising and not very funny.

We are often reminded that we owe a debt to and should honor our soldiers... this is our patriotic duty. Instead, I think I feel sorry for some of them, admire some and have very little respect for others. Why should I be proud of men who clamber to go abroad to kill people and break things. I've been taught that they do it to keep us free and that otherwise we wouldn't have enjoy our personal freedoms. I believe there's a lot of truth to that, but it seems they also wage war to maintain the status quo. There are aspects of the status quo worth fighting to preserve, but there are also aspects of it that need to change... radically.

When our soldiers fight on behalf of the oil companies, neocons, Israel and the rich, I believe they are being misused. If you tell me that what's good for those mentioned above, is good for all of us, I must say I disagree with and am ashamed of my country. I am also sometimes ashamed of myself and of the actions of my Arab people... there is more than enough guilt and shame to go around... lets straighten out so that we may cap that well!

It's interesting to see Ken Pollack, Ken Allard, David Kay, Col. Jacobs, Dick Cheney, Rumsfeld, Perle, Krystal, George Bush etc. commenting on the WMDs which have not been found. They have back peddled quite successfully and once again pulled the wool over the peoples eyes. Oh well, I guess it's true, "a man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest." Too bad they've destroyed Scott Ritters reputation...

I'd take Kerry over Bush any day, but I still wouldn't vote for him since he did not have the intestinal fortitude to commit to attacking the military industrial complex, hegemony, aggression and imperialism. Come to think of it, it seems he was part and parcel of TPTB.

They say the Israelis have made the desert bloom and there's some truth to it. There's also "the rest of the story", which we're unlikely to hear. They've done so by taking water from the local Arabs primarily for their own use. They have also destabilized an already fragile ecosystem for the past hundred years.

There are lots of things I don't say and usually, it is for the better. There have also been things I should have said and hope to some day.

Those reactionaries never stop "agitating", they're trying to convert me and my dog. Well, they might save one of us, but I the other one worships anyone who'll regurgitate a little meat in his direction. Us humans seem to require a bit more, like promises of glory and power... which by the way they offer in abundance, along with some pretty nasty threats to those that don't acquiesce.

The surveys in 2004 indicated that most Iraqis want the U.S. forces to stay until security is achieved. The survey results were then used by the neocons to imply that most Iraqis are glad we invaded...I'm not sure that is true. If you worded the survey to ask the Iraqi people "are you glad the Americans invaded and that the war happened", what would the polls say? I don't know, maybe they were so oppressed that they would mostly be for the invasion... I don't see anyone here trying to find that out.

I think the U.S. is guilty of mischief at the very least and is largely responsible for

the death of thousands of Iraqis, mostly civilians. All because of Bush's hatred of Saddam, his cronyism with the oil companies, our lust for oil and reactionary religionists at home and abroad. Years ago, Rumsfeld met with Hussein and did not protest his gassing of Kurds, even as the west provided the materials to do this...at that time Rumsfeld was okay with murdering Iraqi civilians as long as it supported his aims, the secretary of defense has not changed one iota.

Al Qaeda, the Baathists, the USA, I'm not terribly surprised by the violent actions of any of them, but I think they're all wrong, worthy of blame and should be held accountable for the death and destruction they are causing.

Cadet Kelly was on the Disney channel the other day and I saw the following disclaimer, "no real guns were used in this movie." Isn't that nice... The movie about kids at a military academy, shows marching, drilling, negotiating obstacle courses and generally learning the "art of war." I doubt if Eisner and the Disney brass care less that real guns are being used to kill young Palestinians and Iraqis by the youngsters they have brainwashed. Their little "no real guns" disclaimer is the height of hypocrisy, right up there with FOX news' "fair and balanced." I wonder if there's such a thing as Karma?

I don't know how many times I've heard "good Christians" say things like;

1. Afghanistan, Iraq... the only thing wrong is that we didn't kill enough of them. (Ed Townsend)
2. Chavez of Venezuela should be assassinated... Pat Robertson.
3. I just want to take them and Church go-er about Arabs.
4. The oil "shortage" is OPECs fault.
5. Those filthy Arabs.
6. Those dirty rag heads.
7. Kill them all.
8. Just nuke them

When on the most fundamental level, you're entire system is based on "exclusive" religions, when it carries over to "our team is better than their team" in sports and you imprint kids with false mythology like Santa Claus from the very beginning, then how can we expect honesty from anyone? When history, archeology and science are relegated to the back seat by those controlling the masses, there's not much hope for justice and peace.

Yes, there is greatness as well as despicability in every group of people. The British who I admire for some things, I despise for others. History records them as being the kernel of almost all that is good; modern democracy, freedom, etc., but don't forget, they've written most of history...just listen to what Churchill said, ""I expect

to be treated well by history, because I intend on writing it"...Winston Churchill and he said, "Sometimes the truth is so precious it must be accompanied by a bodyguard of lies," ...Winston Churchill.

I don't expect or want to be your conscience or vice versa. Often we discount others consciences or say, he doesn't have one. In a few cases that may be true, but for the most part, it's a matter of whether or not we agree with the other guy. If we don't, then it's common to say he shouldn't trust his conscience or feelings, because a higher power says that things should be a certain way. Problem is, he may feel that he's guided by a higher power too... maybe the same one you are appealing to.

Group think is rampant, among Arabs, Israelis, Americans and almost every other nationality or tribe. We are taught to look out for ourselves, our loved ones and our people... historically this has been how groups dealt with adversity. Has it been successful? It has been for the winners and it's been catastrophic for the losers.

Are Arabs and Israelis eternal enemies fighting over scraps like lions and hyenas? The nature channel just showed a lion sharing a kill with two hyenas, so why can't we live in peace?

The more I think about the English, I think they probably have done more harm than good in the world. They didn't invent freedom, liberty, independence and democracy, nor did they bring them to others as they might claim. These are aspirations that on some level have always been held by everyone and hopefully always will. The countries that claim to have popularized, invented or spread these things, deserve partial credit for their boasts. That credit is opposed by debits of slavery, imperialism and genocide...history will be the judge, unless the same people continue to have a monopoly on writing it.

When will man realize that war is wrong almost all of the time, not just when they are likely to loose?

The word terrorism is tossed around pretty liberally these days. Just this morning I heard Aristede or one of his cronies in Haiti talking about how the people of Port au Prince needed to mobilize to peacefully resist the terrorists. The rebels may or may not be using terrorism, just as the government may or may not be...what is the definition and what are the facts on the ground? Peter Ustinoff said,..."terrorism is war by the poor and war is terrorism by the rich."

If the definition of terrorism is the deliberate killing of innocent non-combatants, then the ultimate cases of it arguably were; Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Tokyo and

Dresden. I was taught that the atomic annihilation of hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians was necessary because the Japanese “war lords” would never surrender and that nuking them was the only way to end the war without the death of hundreds of thousands of American boys and perhaps millions of Japanese. That may be true, or it may be a distortion of history. I think the American “war lords” wanted to get their way...unconditional surrender...and were willing to go to any lengths to obtain it. They were probably as unwilling to talk peace or compromise than the Japanese and the lives of Japanese civilians were of very little valuable to them. Of course it also served notice to the Russians that they’d better not grab too much of Europe or Asia... too bad it didn’t work.

In the Middle East the Arabs who arguably are fighting to reclaim their lands are called terrorists, while those who have the “luxury” of using nukes if necessary are called chosen or holy. Israel and the west rarely if ever mention their nuclear options, but its been made clear enough they would annihilate the Arab world if they don’t get their way. On the other hand, if Hiroshima was useful in preventing the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans, then Islamic terrorism could be incorrectly construed as an effort to save Moslem and American lives, by attempting to drive the Americans out of the Middle East and not having to resort to more heinous means such as suitcase nukes and biological warfare. I am advised, however that the book of Revelation has told us for two-thousand years, that Israel will prevail. I am told that the Arabs were doomed before they even began to fight, I am told that they are not in the Lambs book, unless they convert, end their Jihad and join the crusade against their brothers and sisters.

Religion is even worse than politics these days...at least in politics you’re given a choice of two parties. In religion they don’t even give you that choice, maybe you can choose between denominations, but you have to join the Christian team... or else!

These leaders of yours spend our people men like dollars, to them we’re all just canon fodder.

Why should the guy would land is about to be taken at spear point believe the guy with the crazy eyes who says “God gave me this land!” Just out of curiosity, was God talking from a burning bush, a cloud in the sky or perhaps out of a donkeys mouth? Would you be willing to give your property to someone who claims to be chosen and tells you such a story? “What!” you say... “don’t you know that we have ‘the truth’ and if you don’t believe in ‘the truth’, you are damned?” Yes, yes, yes, I have already been informed of my rights, thank you very much.

They say the U.S. always does the right thing... after it has exhausted all other options. That makes me think I should stay here and try to work towards that end and to evicting the occupation of our government.

In 9.11 the terrorists brutally and horrifically killed approximately 3,000 Americans, the vast majority of them civilians and destroyed several buildings, two of them monumental landmarks. Since then the U.S. has killed tens of thousands of Afghans and Iraqis, the vast majority of them civilians and destroyed hundreds of buildings none of them nearly as monumental as the trade center...you do the math.

In math, a negative times a negative equals a positive, but in ethics, two wrongs don't make a right. When you have a nation of immigrants led by its people who's ancestors were; Anglos, Germans and them, with substantial influence from Africans, Latinos and Asians...who can stand against them? People from many nations and tribes have proven formidable, but none can hold a candle compared to this coalition. The moral of the story...don't mess with the U.S., it will do whatever is necessary to win unconditionally, no matter what that is.

Countries try to keep their "enemies" off guard, confused, disorganized, weak, quarreling internally and unable to mount an offensive or even a defense against the outside. This is done by espionage, sabotage, interference and when necessary war.

In most societies, religious reactionaries wield considerable political and economic power, much greater than their numbers would suggest possible. They are well organized, single minded in their goals and unlike the "average man" more likely to be sober.

Their think tanks, international money and political machinations have one primary goal and that is to strengthen "their" country and to weaken others. They've made much of their money financing wars for kings and presidents. They've been wrongly and collectively punished many times for their meddling and profiteering, They say they're chosen and that makes some of them act like they are the masters and the rest are a herd to be managed. They're smarter but not necessarily wiser.

They've made many contributions to science, but not so many as to make them supreme or to have a special status. Some of their most astounding achievements have been in the area of destructive technology. Bravely and properly they will not renounce their God, but I wonder if they might consider loving their neighbors, instead of confiscating more land and build walls instead of bridges? If they start working purely for the good of all mankind, which many of them already do, they will help us all find greater peace and happiness.

Persuasion is almost always better than invasion, education is always better than indoctrination. If we had cut off "allied" shipments of weapons and WMD precursors to Iraq in the 80's, instead of encouraging Saddam to attack Iran, we might not be there today. The goal of the neo-cons, reactionary Christians and Israelis, has always been to do what ever is necessary to destabilize the middle-east and weaken the Arabs. If we hadn't been complicit in the insertion of Israel by

questionable means, there would be a good chance for peace in the middle-east and an end to terrorism. If they were not so convinced that they were chosen over the rest of mankind, there is a chance they would live in peace with their neighbors and not have to threaten the world with nuclear annihilation to insure their survival.

Is the Arabs would abandon; honor killing, female genital mutilation and the like, perhaps God would smile on their cause.

Some American's used to say "the only good Indian is a dead Indian", then they changed it to the only good negro is a dead negro, I'm waiting to hear that the only good Arab is a dead Arab.

Son, I will be going to see the Navy recruiter with you today, I will bless and support your decision as best I can. I will undoubtedly have differences with the policies of the USA and not always approve of your mission, but I will always hope and pray for your safety and well being.

China, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Korea, Taiwan, Columbia, Yugoslavia, where ever... They will spend you like a buck, they don't give a damn about you young men and women. If you are young, impressionable, insecure, unemployed and perhaps macho, then you are who they want. You may be a warrior by birth, it may be inherent in your blood, I don't know, but I hope you know what you're getting into. Despite your sharp protests to the contrary, I think those of us who are older know a thing or two... Peer pressure, zog media and the false church have won our youth over, as usual and will spend their lives to maintain their grip on society.

I think you will be fighting more for zog and the false church than for God and the ideals of the founding fathers. Regardless, I admit the military could still be a good career path with excellent potential. Time will tell if you will be used and abused, or if you do good or even great things.

The US has gone too far meddling internationally and it has gone too far at home in it's social engineering. The result has been squandered constitutional rights, especially for men. I think that women are more content with the results, although neither sex is very satisfied. Neither our foreign policy meddling or our tinkering with American society has resulted in damage beyond repair, but both areas need a lot of work.

The Brits, the Americans and the Israelis didn't invent democracy, they have just hijacked it. They are democratic nations primarily in that they vote collectively to further their ambitions and to benefit those that join their cause. Those recruits considered worthy of acceptance are invited to enjoy the benefits of cronyism and preferential treatment. They celebrate the right to be drunk and to raise hell, as if those questionable freedoms aren't guaranteed almost everywhere. The common,

binding democratic ideal, seems to be collective agreement in the policy of attacking and plundering the enemy of the moment...which by the way wasn't exclusively their modus operandi, it's always been the choice of tyrants.

Britain and the U.S. demand homage from the world for squelching Hitler and Tojo...okay you (and Russia) did it, but not out of the goodness of your heart. I know you're not supposed to look a gift horse in the mouth, but you did it for your own survival. Iraq? It looks to me like you're doing this "favor" to the Iraqis for revenge, profit, to weaken the Arabs and for oil.

Suicide bombings, hell fire missiles from the sky...death and devastation...welcome to the holy land!

I'm a peculiar kind of nigger...I'm called a sand nigger, I come with a stigma, but receive no benis.

Jerk me around and I might forgive you, but I'm unlikely to forget you.

"First they came for them, then they came for them, then they came for us and there was no one left to help me"...this was valid in the case of Hitler, but now it's used to weaken traditional societies. We are encouraged to support the causes of special interest groups that claim to want equal rights, but which are not satisfied till they have superior rights. I question why I should join with them to grant special privileges when they come at my expense? Why should I work to help the people that have worked the hardest to repossess the fruit of my labor and my God given rights?

Where do I begin? This society gets sicker by the day...and so does Middle Eastern society. The Discovery channel produces TV shows highlighting our latest military technology and repeats old clichés about warriors not wanting to fight and about being so formidable that no one will challenge you... they call that the best strategy. In fact it might be, save for us turning our war technology on whoever will not bend to our supreme will.

My son tells me that he's willing to die for what he believes in...he says someone has to be willing to fight, so that guys like me can sit at our computers. I'm trying to remember if I ever asked him to do that for me? Who convinced our boys that they need to die, (or more likely kill) to preserve our sedentary existence? I wonder what the world would be like, if the rich old men and women didn't encourage poor young men and women to go off and kill and sometimes die? I'm guessing the world would be a better place, I'm guessing the rich wouldn't be quite so rich and the poor wouldn't be quite so poor and neither would be quite so beholden to the government for tax breaks and handouts. The military genius' on the Discovery channel says that loses are unacceptable, we must continue to make our military better, better,

better...

Meanwhile the kids watch the Panama City spring break parties and hip hop artists on MTV. The dads watch action flicks and women on Howard Stern picking up objects with their bottoms and then having relay races in order to win boob jobs. Our technology continues to advance, while our moral fabric disintegrates further with each passing day.

You said, with some emotion that you're willing to fight so that I can sit at my computer and "work", it seemed obvious that your level of respect for me was low. I took it to mean that you were willing to fight and possibly die for the freedoms that Americans have, including to "be like me", which I took to mean the right to be a parasite. I am not asking you to risk your life for me... as far as my survival is concerned, let the chips fall where they may.

I think you are fighting for another guy who sits at a computer and manages his mother's thirty million dollars. His son is into Rolex watches and one way or another will probably get rich, but I'd be surprised if he volunteers to fight for America. He might however continue the tradition of donating money to Israel and having hospital wings and streets named after his family. Meanwhile I will still be at my computer as well as cleaning toilets, shampooing carpets, patching roofs and trying to get rid of these old houses. I wonder when was the last time he or his relatives did any manual labor for a living? I saw him for dinner last weekend and he asked the other rich fellow if he'd had his "Jag" out...then he allowed that he'd had the Corvette out a lot recently. If you die fighting, in my opinion it will be for those two and their crowd, your family will be devastated and these other ones who benefit will shed a few tears. Their name will remain prominently displayed on street signs and hospital wings in Palestine. Your name will be painfully etched in our hearts and perhaps in a newspaper, computer file or plaque for those that bravely gave their lives in the "war against terrorism." I can only pray the outcome will not be such and that you will not be spent like the dollar they see you as. I love you far too much...I don't know if I can go on without you...I don't know if your grandfather would be able to either.

I think you're also fighting for the religious crazies, the ones who say kill them all and let God sort them out. There was one on the TV this morning (4/06/04), I think her name was Delaney or something like that...she says God told her to kill her sons, three or four of them I think, she bashed their heads in with rocks...she was found not guilty by reason of insanity. You're fighting for people that say God gave them other people's land and who tell the people living there, get lost and we don't care where you go. I think you'd be fighting for Bush, Cheney and the other rich oil families...the list goes on and on, my point is they are deceiving the youth once again.

I hope that if you become a warrior, that you fight for something more worthwhile than what I've mentioned above. At least tell me a reason why you're fighting,

other than blaming me and saying you're fighting for a lazy bum like me, that should be grateful for the "freedoms" I have. I am grateful and I am grateful that you are brave, but I am not asking you to fight for me and I think there's a decent chance I can take care of myself and a good chance that many peace loving nations would also offer me a decent life. I care more about the ideals and actual practice of freedom, than about a specific country. There are many beautiful places to live and there is relative freedom in many places... I doubt if the people in many of those countries would agree with those that say America is the reason they are free. Twisted ideals and rampant capitalism that enriches a few and leaves most of the people with only beer, cake and spectator sports is not my idea of a great country.

It is normal for parents and children to argue and disagree, but how can I hope to sway you when you have been bombarded from the age of one with religious and cultural propaganda and now listen to right wing talk radio for hours a day? Do you think that Rush, Hannigan and the rest of them are telling you the truth? These men who almost to a man avoided Vietnam with bad backs and sore knees are clamoring for war like no others...except perhaps the reactionary church.

There are people that hope they're right, people that think they're right and people that know they're right...the latter are the most dangerous.

The reactionary Christians that I know are among the most blood thirsty individuals I have ever met. One stepfather talks about how we should have killed more on the highway of death and about how a little torture can go a long way. He talks constantly about killing, Arabs, drug users, liberals...the next day I see him in his church robes singing in the choir. My wife's step father has twice said to my dad, "we should have killed more of them" (first regarding Afghanistan, second Iraq.) It again reminds me of Gandhi's remarks..."I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." and "What do I think of Western civilization? I think it would be a very good idea."

In order to be "one of the boys", you have to be willing to kill on command...thanks for nothing.

The other day, there was the killing and horrible desecration of 4 U.S. contractors/mercenaries bodies in Falujah. US response so far has been to kill 450 Iraqis in that city...400 killed for each mercenary. The pundits say these were mostly "enemy" fighters, I don't know what the truth is...it's probably somewhere in between. Even though these "contractors" were likely well armed, perhaps wearing high-tech body armor, highly paid and ready, willing and able to kill Iraqis for profit, their desecration was horrible, but so has been the killing of thousands of Iraqis by an invading, occupying power. It's possible that none of the hundreds of Iraqis killed in the US armies retaliation took part in the desecration of the contractors... since when do two wrongs make a right? As an observer, it looks to me like Christianity was hijacked right out of the gate by radicals like Saul of

Tarsus, who I believe heard a revelation from a donkey? With Islam and Judaism at least you pretty much get what you pay for...they are just a blood thirsty, but possibly less steeped in hypocrisy...WWJB (who would Jesus bomb?) maybe no one... the man Saul who changed his name to Paul, when he became an apostle is perhaps another story. Those sweet talking Christians at the Ray Boltz Church music show last night probably would not hesitate for a minute to send in the bombers.

My 19 year old wants to be a Navy seal...he is also asking for one last Easter Egg hunt...what does this mean? Is he a man a child or both?

“Freedom”, now seems to mean the freedom to become a debt slave.

“Choice”, now means access to zog media, so they can educate us.

The Muslims are every bit as guilty as the Christians, there are reports today that the Mahdi army wiped out an Iraqi village because they were too lax in their adherence to Islam. There are reports all the time of Sudanese Muslims committing genocide and enslavement of their darker skinned Christian countrymen and women...maybe we should have invaded the Sudan. How can Muslims expect God to smile on them when they commit such atrocities?

We keep forgetting that two wrongs do not make a right...again and again and again -we forget.

The violence on both sides is wrong and the perpetrators on both sides are criminals...especially the leaders. It is not however very surprising that when you multiply; human nature x desperation x greed x scarcity x history x religion that you get barbarity, death and...war.

I don't know if the Arabs realize that the neocons strategy is to divide and conquer them, it's effective if not original...just ask the American Indians.

The general said the U.S. could sustain operations in Iraq, as long as the American people support the effort. He was drawing a comparison between Vietnam and Iraq, and alluded to Rumsfeld and the other neocons deciding to add 20,000 more troops to the fray (4/04.) In Vietnam, he mentioned that as you put more troops in you need more support, more supply people and you end up with more targets. He said the same could happen in Iraq. My feeling is that the American people are more likely to support pouring more lives down the drain in Iraq, because; this is a religious war and Arabs are the most despised people on earth at least to Americans...thanks Hollywood, thanks Fox news, thanks zog.

You can conquer the world, but that doesn't always mean you're right. Look at

Genghis, Attila and the rest of the fellows...are you that different? Today Rummy said the casualties in Falujah are terrorists, he said U.S. forces do their very best, not to kill civilians ... tell that to the people of Hiroshima.

You'll appear right to most people just as long as you're on top, cause your people will be writing the history books. When some one finally knocks you off your high horse, the truth will trickle out.

It's a religious war and it may have started when someone allegedly gave Harry Truman a grocery bag full of cash to recognize the state of Israel.

Seems to me that human life and events are all about getting your way and I've yet to meet anyone who doesn't do everything in their power to do just that. Some people have very little power and don't get their way very often. Other people, organizations and countries have great power and don't hesitate very long before unleashing it on anyone in their way.

If you're a grunt, you're worth a dollar, if you're a special ops, you're worth \$ 20... in either case the "powers that be" will have no qualms about spending you to achieve their goals.

We can criticize and judge each other till kingdom come...but should we?

We've gone from, "it will be a slam dunk", to "got to get those WMDs", to "they'll greet us with flowers as liberators", to abusing prisoners and saying, heck that's what happens in a war...lies, damn lies and statistics.

The Americans I know are down playing the Iraqi prisoner abuse reports, they remind me a little bit of Germans saying that Jews weren't being mistreated. At least the Germans didn't have CNN etc. showing them pictures all day long, it made it easier for them to plead ignorance...Americans don't have that luxury. Meanwhile the allegations get worse, rape of Iraqi women, sodomizing of Iraqi men, sex abuse of Iraqi children, plunder of money, gold and important papers by American troops...its not a pretty picture.

The administration is reaching out to the Arab world, attempting damage control in the wake of the prisoner abuses that have been uncovered. Do you think the U.S.

can be trusted...just ask the Indians...oh wait a minute, where are the Indians? Oh yeah, they're almost all gone now...well tribes of Araby the only way that Bush plans to reach out to you is with a predator drone toting hell fire missiles.

... Likewise, we prefer to kill our "enemies" with similar sterility and cold disregard. We opt for missile strikes and laser guided bombs, which our children have become experts at via video games to teach them the necessary skills. We become furious and rightly so, when our troops or "contractors" are butchered or desecrated, but then we kill hundreds of people in revenge. We don't stoop so low as to drag our victims through the streets, we just leave what's left of them in the rubble our bombs create.

May there be peace, may there be justice, may God's will be done.

In Israel (5/12/04) in the last several days, Palestinians have blown up two Israeli military convoys with roadside bombs, killing approximately eleven Israeli military personnel. In response (retaliation), Israel has so far killed 23 Palestinians fighters and civilians, and blown up a number of buildings...they have fired into crowds of people in refugee camps...who are the barbarians? What came first the chicken or the egg, who was there first, how did the Israelis come to occupy the land and will there ever be peace and justice?

You call me anti-Semitic and by most standards I suppose I am, because I oppose Zionism. I don't care if they consider themselves "chosen people", I don't object until they use that belief to plunder others...most notably my Palestinians cousins.

Another sickening beheading in Saudi Arabia today...once again both sides insult and threaten the other. One side blows heads off and the other side cuts them off, but neither are vegetarians, they both demand bloody vengeance and call it justice. Either way it means butchering human beings, spilling blood and killing mostly innocent people. One side has killing down to a science, be it people who are killed from miles away and forgotten, or cattle and chickens killed in factories and never seen by the consumer until plucked from the cooler shelf in shiny plastic packages. The other side is not so antiseptic, it kills men or animals "barbarically" and leaves the corpse on the side of the road. Both sides are horrific hunters of men who have proven repeatedly that they will do absolutely anything to get their way.

Friends tell me to be grateful that in this great country you can celebrate and party all you want, but they also advise me to keep my criticism of neocons and war policy to myself. Is this the land of the free or the land of freedom to get drunk. It seems to me that the government would rather have us partying than protesting and allowing us to stay drunk is a step in that direction.

Now "Anonymous" at the CIA is promoting his book (6/04) that says Bush is

playing into Bin Laden's hands. I believe that "Anonymous" says we must kill as many people, including civilians as it takes, to break the back of militant Islam. I interpret this to mean the west should pursue a Sherman like policy of total war against the Arabs, until they submit to America's will... again...so WWJB?

Is it out of the question to leave them alone and end our Machiavellian schemes and interferences? If we act moderately, maybe the Arabs will too, if we don't they probably won't either. If moderation returns, then it's quite possible that the extremists in the Middle East will not have fertile ground for terrorism, but if we escalate, they will have plenty of recruits for mayhem and they may also obtain the means to inflict damage on the west commensurate with that we are inflicting on them. The neocons say that is even more reason to prosecute them and that a brave, free nation like the U.S.A. must not shrink from its "task" no matter what the dangers may be. I keep hearing that "radial Islamists" are evil barbarians, but I think they are more like us than we would like to admit. Unfortunately I don't see any signs of the U.S. stopping its aggressive policies or the Islamists submitting and stopping their terrorist style war.

Bush is anxious to defend America by fighting the "terrorists", my GOP and reactionary friends applaud him loudly. My liberal, more secular friends are less buoyant, but when push comes to shove they also cry for blood, revenge and "security." I hope and pray for peace, justice, for God to protect our sons and daughters and bring them home safely.

They're given coordinates and they blow people up...they do it because they are told to, they are paid to and they believe they are doing the "right thing." They are killing terrorists they are told. They have heard bad things about Arabs since they were little boys and girls. Is it any wonder they are so willing to kill, is it any wonder they think that Jesus is looking on approvingly, is it any wonder they drop bombs on "targets", even though they must know there are Iraqi or Palestinian women and children inside? I wonder if they even give a damn that there is often nothing left to identify, much less bury.

Yes, there are things terribly wrong with Iraq, but for our children to go there and kill, or possibly be killed or maimed, probably is not be the answer.

The war is largely helping the provocateurs and the profiteers, but isn't that how most wars are? Will things change much for the "people?" I heard a guy the other night being interviewed and he said, something to the effect that, "wars are justified as necessary evils, but they are usually more evil than necessary." I wish I had gotten his name, I think it was "Coughin" or something like that ... his speech was slurred a bit, by a recent stroke. I'll revise his quote to this, "wars are often justified as necessary evils, but they are usually more evil than justifiable."

It's not nice being called a traitor for being loyally opposed to those who have

subverted the Constitution and who ignore Washington's warning about permanent foreign alliances.

We are doing everything we can to make sure the Muslims don't get WMDs, yet we assisted Israel in obtaining them. The same people that detest the UN and applaud America's vetoes of every UN resolution condemning Israel's crimes against the Palestinians, point to the UN's recognition of Israel in 1948? as a major reason for that countries legitimacy. Israel has more WMDs and nukes than all but a few countries in the world and at this time still has not officially acknowledged them. Where did they get their uranium or plutonium?

It seems fairly clear that Israel will use their nukes to kill as many Arabs as necessary if that is what it takes for them to keep the land they have conquered. The US has no problem with Israel's position and has aided and abetted the theft every step of the way... after all, the Bible says it's there's, American's believe it and that settles it. So why were we so surprised when the "enemy" finally brought the battle to our shores...after all, Arabs and other Muslims have been killed with U.S. weapons and with U.S. acquiescence for over fifty years? The west has been interfering in the Middle East for over 100 years, 1,000 years if you include the Crusades. Is it any wonder that the Muslims have become radicalized and that they consider violent jihad their best course of action?" We are on a crusade to conquer and they are on a jihad to keep their way of life...corrupt as it has become. They have become radicalized, just as we are becoming increasingly radicalized, our madras's turn out zealots just as theirs do. In both cases, the people increasingly follow political and religious leaders who favor violence and extremism instead of understanding, negotiation, compromise and justice.

We call Israel a democracy, but I see its people as being united primarily by the goal of holding onto the land they conquered and the further goal of expanding their settlements. If that is what democracy is all about, it is not worth all the bragging.

I hope that some day, men look back on this age and say I can't believe we lived like that and we will never surrender our rights again. Funny, they will sound like the "liberated" women of today. Liberate me, liberate you, liberate everyone. Mullahs, pastors, priests etc., I humbly request that you scour your sacred texts to find justification for peace and reconciliation, not violence and degradation.

"We believe no more in Bonaparte's fighting merely for the liberties of the seas than in Great Britain's fighting for the liberties of mankind. The object is the same, to draw to themselves the power, the wealth and the resources of other nations." - Thomas Jefferson

Been watching "Coronation Street" off and on for several hours on CBC...it's

interesting! Now they're broadcasting "Deadline Iraq...uncensored stories of the war" and a disclaimer advises that sensitive viewers should be warned that there will be graphic images, including dead coalition soldiers. Strange, I don't think this has been seen on US TV... probably never will be!

A US soldier with crooked, discolored teeth is interviewed as the camera trains on an Iraqi armored vehicle with a jagged two foot wide hole in it. What do you think of the war the commentator asked him, "pretty awesome what the marines did", the young man replied. The reporter from World Pictures and People Magazine showed a fire fight as well as Iraqi passenger cars blown up by US tanks. A while later the US tank driver showed up and started to cry when he saw the carnage he had created and the dead civilians. He told the reporter to tell the Iraqis that he had pulled the trigger and was sorry that this war not the war the American people wanted.

There was lots more on the show that I found thought provoking... I wish they'd show it in the US, would some minds be changed, or are they just preaching to the choir?

How can I win the argument when so many other influential voices in your life are telling you to go? I am against the war, but know I might be wrong, after all there are greater powers in the universe than you and I... "powers and principalities" and all that. I am skeptical of those who are so sure we are doing the right thing and I question their facts. I also think the government may be wrong, how many times have they pissed on our backs and told us it was raining anyway? I will pray for your safety, but I'm scared half to death. This war on terror may lead the U.S. or someone else to turn the Muslim Middle East into a sea of glass, if they don't get their way and I'm not for that either.

Nine eleven, versus 10,000 or so dead Iraqis and Afghans, lots and lots of them non-combatants. Two wrongs don't make a right, playing God is not the governments job or its right. There are lots of dictators out there, but they don't control so much oil and they didn't potentially threaten Israel. I hope the neocons, war profiteers, your friends and your relatives appreciate whatever sacrifice you are going to make...I just hope you don't make the ultimate sacrifice or something close to it.

There are more and more people that think the sword is mightier than the pen and they might be right, the sad thing is they also love and respect the sword and what it represents, more than they do dialogue and mediation. They also tend to choose ancient superstitions over reason and inquiry.

Even though I am stating unabashedly that I am an Arab American and pro Palestinian, I am speaking solely for myself.

How much of the Arab world's problems can they blame on Israel and the west and how much must they take responsibility for?

In so many cases of conflict, a relevant question might be, "what came first, the chicken or the egg?" Sometimes it's impossible to determine the answer...or at least it seems impossible to agree on the "truth." Very sad...we're not getting past this point and it causes hatred, anger, derision and violence. Can't we figure some way to put this in the background for a while and then we can work on helping the chicken cross the road.

I may have benefited from the Indian wars and slavery, but that does nothing to change the fact that they were wrong. Now you want me to support "liberation" of Iraq, with the subtle implication that we will be able to have cheap oil and they will have democracy. I think you're wrong again, I'd rather have expensive oil than bloody soaked oil and if democracy will rob Iraqi men or women of their rights, I want no part of killing the country to save it.

You are asked to be Christian soldiers and told to go "onward Christian soldiers, bravely off to war." You are told that you are fighting God's fight for the downtrodden and weak, but after 2,000 years of this killing do you not question whether you are doing God's bidding or the bidding of the rich? Have the poor been raised much in the last 2,000 years and have the rich been lowered? I think you are told that the fight is not between flesh and blood, but between powers and principalities, but I wonder if this is always true? Regardless, it is usually your flesh, your blood and your futures they are anxious to sacrifice...not there own.

Our Middle East policies continue to radicalize the region, it seems like our goal for fifty years has been to destabilize the region, since they often fail to comply with our will. For one-hundred years before that, the British did the same thing and there has been no stability in the region at least since the west moved in, first with Napoleon and then with the Brits. I've been taught in school that the Ottoman's were brutal and needed to "get the boot", that may be entirely true, partly true or partly propaganda. In any case, it has been quite useful to teach that version of history for all those who share similar anti-Arab objectives in the region.

Iraq? Is it just the continuation of the iron fist policy? Give women in the Middle East the vote and you can overthrow patriarchal society, just as you have done in the west. Maybe that's a good thing for women and children, maybe it's not...it's highly questionable that it's better for men who through community property and custody decisions have often been beaten down to the status of drones. Rich men are largely insulated from the effects of such railroading and the common man has been largely convinced to submit. Joe six pack is so connected to his wife that he'd be in big trouble if he makes waves, so he does nothing...of course many men support the status quo and find it quite okay. I don't begrudge you for fighting for women's rights, so why do you attack me for lobbying for men's?

In Afghanistan, the U.S. is getting ready to destroy the poppy fields that have exploded in number since the fall of the Taliban. Will more attacks on Afghans decrease or increase poppy cultivation and terrorism? Meanwhile the oil men, fronted by Bush and Cheney, reap billions, while the price of gasoline goes up and 85% ethanol is available, but is of course lobbied against, behind the scenes, by the oil companies. Brazil has shown that ethanol can replace huge amounts of oil based gasoline, but this is not even under consideration here... nor it seems is coal liquification.

I think I get it now...the more Arabs you kill, the more of them you are entitled to kill. I've seen reports that for every "Coalition" soldier killed, there have possibly been twenty Iraqi civilians killed and an additional untold number of Iraqi "insurgents" killed. The logic seems to be...it takes more than 20 Iraqis to equal one American, so, we must be "worth" twenty times as much as an Iraqi. If the body count gets even higher, then we are worth even more per person, making Iraqis worth even less and "entitling" Americans to kill even more.

They also talk about "crossing the line", the "terrorists" have really crossed the line this time, etc. Well did it ever occur to the fighters on both sides, that every time they kill someone, they have "really crossed the line?" On TV tonight Aaron Brown discusses the very unique lives of the almost 1,000 American soldiers that have died as of 9/7/04...well can't the same be said for the 10,000, or 20,000 or 30,000 Iraqis that have died so far? I've been seeing lots on TV about the Russian children killed in the terrorist siege of the school, in Beslan and agree it was a horrible and dastardly crime. I've seen crying people, dead children, angry survivors...but I've yet to see anything about the 10's of thousands of Chechyan civilians killed by Russians soldiers and very little about the thousands of Iraqi civilians killed by Americans and by other Iraqis and foreign fighters.

On the radio this morning, they stated, that if the 1,000 dead Americans from Iraq had 5 minutes each with Bush, it would take him 83 hours to listen to all of them. If we add the 10s of thousands of dead Iraqi and Afghan civilians, it would take so long, he might not have time to order the killing of more of them. The average American soldier is a good kid who wants to liberate Iraq and avenge 911, both of which are at least in part inaccuracies they have been told and they believe. A somewhat smaller percentage of them would gladly kill for; our occupied government, Israel's security and big oil company contracts. As for democracy, that may simply mean the McDonaldization of the Middle East, taking power from the ruling men and giving it to men and women who see things our way...after all, if the men and women who are elected don't see it our way, would we not remove them? It probably depends on how compliant, or not, they turn out to be.

So many stories on this day about the amazing soldiers, the stoic families, the great

sacrifices and it's somewhat true...but there's nothing about the families in Iraq. There's nothing about the children who have had half their faces burnt off, who are double amputees, who have had their lives shattered. They get zero play in the U.S. news...hmm, I wonder why. The Iraqis had a tyrannical government, lots of oil and were perceived as a potential threat to Israel. They did not change their system by themselves, so tragically and violently, it is being changed by the "coalition" ...the question is will they be better off in the long run and by whose measure?

Was the patriarch Abraham an Iraqi, after all, the Bible says he came from Ur, which was in modern day Iraq? If he was a native of Iraq, why are we now killing the children of Ur? Today 9/12/04 on the radio news, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle was damaged by a roadside bomb and the US crew, some of whom were lightly injured abandoned the war machine. A crowd of young Iraqis surrounded it in a victory celebration. A US helicopter then fired missiles on them, killing a number of people, a Palestinian journalist who may have been filming the scene was also killed. Is this the direction we are moving in...a statement from the US military said they were destroying the Bradley so its weapons would not be looted...were they not also sending a cold blooded message to the Iraqis?

The constant talk about power and glory, dominion and victory sent up warning flags in my mind. It smelled fishy and despite their claims that it was God's power and victory, the church always seemed to reward themselves with some one else's abundance. In the old days it was usually land or gold, now it seems to be oil, control of pipeline routes or various commercial contracts. When I saw our old pastor encouraging the young children to try and talk in tongues and later saw your current pastor become enraged when loosing the little league game he was coaching, I put two and two together. It was already apparent that the ball game was all about winning, not so much about teaching the kids to play, it was mostly about winning... but how would Jesus coach? Later on, the "patriotic" July 4th celebration seemed to me to basically be a war rally, complete with photos of bound, defeated Iraqis, and an Abrahms tank with a sign reading "Bush and Co." I can no more follow these peoples example, then I can not embrace the path our current administration is on.

Bush's lead is increasing in the polls (9/18/04), as American's side with his view of things. He at least has a plan they say, Kerry does not. I think that American's are accepting the current level of casualties in Iraq as acceptable, just about one American killed per day on the average and about 25 Iraqis... well we know they don't count. In any case most Americans don't seem to like Arabs...in fact, it seems that lots of Americans hate Arabs. As an Arab-American who blends in, I have heard many a candid remark from my countrymen about Arabs. As far as I can recall, for the decades that I have been listening, I think they've all been negative....fucking Arabs, stinking Arabs, God #%*@ towel heads etc. Most American have decided that loosing a few working class blokes and killing a few thousands "towel heads" each month is a fair price for getting our way and getting

their oil. It's a sad thing, but to some extent the Arabs have made their own bed and now must lie in it... of course the media and Hollywood have done their best to portray Arabs in a bad light from the beginning and they will have to lie in the bed of their making as well.

On the Discovery Channel there's a commercial for "Guests of the Ayatollah" from the author of Black Hawk Down. On the Jon Daily show, there's the usual gutter humor and double entendre... in both cases, cleverly, very cleverly, they are getting the herd ready for another assault against the enemy.

Power is good, bad, dangerous and/or useful depending on the circumstances. Consider accidentally receiving an electrical shock while trying to fix an electric outlet or light switch. You are feeling "power" in one of its manifestations, it is like lightning harnessed for our use... but it is still dangerous. Consider bombings by the military or by terrorists, these are also manifestations of power...and not positive ones, although they are harnessed and designed by man, like electricity to do our "work."

What if the \$ 400 billion or so that we've spent invading and occupying Iraq had been spent on; alternative energy, cancer research etc? How much actually has been spent on these in the last two years? The Bush gang has a vested interest in oil and old style energy sources. They try to avoid the issue, or to convince us that we should put our trust in them and use the U.S. military to protect our oil interests. Meanwhile they tell us they are also working hard on alternative energy, which is highly questionable. They never tell us, but they imply that we must use our military to control oil and to place friendly governments in charge of the foreign oil. They may have convinced you, but...

I don't always know what's right, nor do I trust those who claim they do.

I don't go along with "I'd rather be fighting them over there than over here", as justification for invasions, occupations and collateral killing of civilians. I'd rather address the root causes of these problems and possibly end terrorism that way...of course our fearless leaders have no plans to do that. I heard a joke after the tragic New Orleans flood of 05', that Bush was sending supplies elsewhere instead of to New Orleans, so that we could fight the flood some where else... I guess I don't remember the joke very well.

So many of you say it's not about oil, it's not about Israel and it's not about religion. At the same time, some of you imply that if we can not pacify them, then we should kill more of them. In the last few days I've heard one radio host mention neutron bombs and callers to C-Span repeatedly suggest carpet bombing. If we can not cure the patient, we seem determined to kill him. We are willing to do absolutely anything in order to get our way...nothing has changed since we gave the Indians blankets infected with small pox and later wiped out the buffalo to starve the native

people. If there is a God and if we reap what we sow, then we may want to pray...

Lots of folks like Bush because they see him as a regular guy. I think he's a fairly regular rich guy who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. To me, he appears as phony as a three dollar bill and a lot of people are confusing "dumb" with "regular." Lincoln and some other presidents may have been "regular" guys, but they were also highly intelligent men. Bush has ridden more coat tails than any president that I know of.

Be-headings are disgusting and despicable, they are ways to magnify; humiliation, grief, trauma, duration of pain and propaganda. Is it worse than shooting a prisoner or bombing civilians? That's a matter of opinion, my opinion is unimportant, it's what others think that really matters and if they think that it furthers their goals, they are likely to continue.

Laws and government should protect the meek from powerful bullies, they should not empower one group to take the production or property of another. The words evolution and revolution are very similar, if a society does not peacefully evolve into something better, it may be changed by revolution, or by outside forces. Perhaps the human race is still evolving physically and perhaps human society is evolving as well. Maybe when a society refuses to evolve, God changes it and uses war machines like that of the U.S. to do so, is that what's happening in Iraq? Is the Middle East going to be democratized?

Will the U.S. be changed from the inside by evolution or by revolution? Will it stay the same or continue to grow and spread it's vision to the rest of the world? Or will God decide that the U.S. is as hypocritical as other nations and needs to be changed as well? What does democracy mean to the Arab world? Will women have all the rights of American women? Will strong willed women have the right to legally dominate their husbands and family, will community property become the norm, will child custody almost automatically go to the woman, unless she is unfit? As it stands, now, all things being equal, the woman is almost always granted custody of the children in the U.S., the only guarantee men have, is that they'll be charged child support... even if they will be raised counter to his views.

I have never seen such a tradition of hatred and self-importance as in reactionary religions. These people are such mean mothers (literally and figuratively), there is such a willingness to make war, such emphasis on acquiring the tools of war, of mastering the science and technology of war. I do not plan on going to your church, except for wedding and funerals.

Vincent Cornell an American who converted to Islam years ago and is now a scholar spoke with Krista Tippet on NPR's "Speaking of Faith", 10/3/04. They seem to want Islam to unilaterally stand down and back off, to become submissive and compliant. They say very little about the west's intrusions, subversions and

occupations of the Middle East, they say little about Israel stealing the land of the Palestinians, they say little about the puppet governments supported across the Middle East that are allowed to rule as long as they grant the contracts to the right oil companies. These things have contributed greatly to that regions chaos and violence, the so called hatred of freedom is largely a red herring.

In Samara this week, 125 “insurgents” have been killed and only one American soldier has died. All I know is that Americans have entered an Iraqi city and killed Iraqis and other Arabs and that these were sons, brothers and husbands. Not to mention the unspecified number of women, children and non-combatant men who have been killed in this “pacification.” Ditto for Israel this week...two children living on stolen land were killed by Palestinian rockets and fifty Palestinians, including a number of children were killed in retaliation...

I am a hypocrite sometimes and I am willing to admit it. You seem almost anxious to kill to “save”, you clamor to attack oil rich countries to set them free, but you don’t admit the hypocrisy of these acts. You are quick to use this slur against others, but usually only admit to your hypocrisy in theoretical, terms and usually with the caveat that you have been forgiven. You are a scripture spouting hypocrite, wrapped in patriotism, marching bands, waving flags and blood. Don’t mind that some people think dissent is the highest form of patriotism.

Meanwhile, the Arabs slip deeper into corruption, debasement and violence. Are they being destroyed, or made stronger by their frenzy of killing foreigners and each other? Is there not some other way to liberate their lands? Holding what’s left of their fertile ground and attempting to win back the rest of it has turned into another of mankind’s long string of historical blood baths and once again religions on all sides of the fight claim God is on their side.

I’m saying there are people that think you’ve stolen their country and all you can say is up yours...that’s not very nice.

Bush deserves another four years, to save the world or whatever...he should get the credit or the blame for whatever we’re in store for.

What is the truth...is the US, the guarantor of freedom and the savior of the world or just another imperialist power...superpower.

Terrorism is reprehensible, disgusting and the result of people that have become inhuman...not subhuman. Inhuman, because of the brutality they have suffered or maybe for other reasons, but they have become monsters. So what should the Arabs do? They don’t have viable armies to stand up the US and Israel, so how can they regain what they say is rightfully theirs? How about non-violent resistance like Gandhi led in India. It worked there and the Americans and Israelis are moral people, it should be a cinch to work with them!

Iran and nuclear blackmail...duh! But what about Israel, they have them and it appears crystal clear that they'll nuke others if they don't get their way. The U.S.A? well I guess they already did.

The White House's reply to Kerry's criticism was something to the effect, that the president will always give his commanders what they need to achieve victory. (10/5/04) The emphasis as usual is on victory and defeating the "enemy." Once again, if you are for peace, you're not a patriot and they are likely to tell you that you can't have peace without first having a victory to secure it. I think the vital ingredient for peace is justice and your victory is hollow and short lived if you deprive the people of justice. Resolve the Palestinian issue justly, stop propping up oppressive puppet governments and I think peace will have a chance...

I think it was the chief of Nazi propaganda who said, "tell a lie often enough and it becomes the truth." I suppose that was not an original thought, it probably had been common knowledge since the beginning of time.

You say that God has given you the Palestinian's land... it would be funny if you weren't so bloody serious about it. You could make funny skits for Mad TV or SNL out of it, if you weren't so actively crusading for your vision. You say that God spoke to Moses through a bush and now a Bush thinks he's speaking for God... hmmm?

Do you really think the people whose land you're taking will embrace your myths and legends? You don't seem to care if they do or if they don't... you give them the "opportunity" to join your team and if they don't, your juggernaut destroys them. Throughout history, this has been done time after time to peoples all over the world. When I ask you to think about what you are doing, you say, "what is there to think about... it is written." Maybe you are doing God's work... who knows, I don't, but you are convinced that you know. If you are in the right then the "backwards" or "unsaved" people of the world should realize that if they don't change their ways, they will be changed by the machine...God's machine?

I saw a poll reporting that 70% of Iraqis wanted Bush for president, but I'm not sure who took the poll and which Iraqis were polled. Regarding Prime Minister Allawi... is he a puppet or was he a brave resistor to Saddam's tyranny? I've been wrong about a lot of things and if the two things above are true, then maybe I should re-evaluate how I feel about the Iraq war...

How often have the powerful turned the weak against each other? Be it the

American Indian police arresting Sitting Bull or the Iraqi national guardsmen fighting their brothers, it's usually about control of land and resources.

On the radio (11/13/04), Allen Devotane, points out that religious groups were instrumental in the end of slavery, the success of the civil rights movement and other good causes. He doesn't mention that these generally were not fundamentalist Christians, at least not white ones. The white fundamentalist Christians were frequently on the other side of the fight. Fight they did and fight they do, this time to destroy the Muslim people. You are with us or against us the reactionaries on both sides like to say.

If you do not give all of your citizens, fair and equal rights, don't be surprised if the world police come knocking at your door. I can't say there's anything terribly wrong with that, unless when the world police come a-knocking, they make things even worse. It's one thing for the situation to get worse before it gets better, but eventually, you reach a point where the correctness of the whole thing can be called into question. Furthermore, when you institute democracy and equal rights, are you simply disempowering one group of elite and empowering another? If that is the case, then there potentially is little or no net gain in justice and therefore little chance of peace.

Live and let live... that is what you say. Divide and conquer... that is what you do!

When people in power are threatened with the loss of their monopoly, they typically spill the blood of their young soldiers and of innocent civilians in their attempt to maintain their stranglehold on society. The Iraqis Bathists are an example of this, as will be our own government if it is ever backed against the wall... at that time the excesses of the Patriot act may seem like pure spring water.

11/16/04 Maybe I could debate the marine shooting the wounded terrorist (per Sean Hannity) in the Fallujah Mosque that's been all over the news today, but I've been advised to keep my mouth shut... for my own good. Meanwhile we are being further desensitized to such images and acts, so that in the future we will accept as acceptable, even worse brutality. This goes in cycles, during the Indian wars, when there was barbarity on both sides, Americans accepted genocide and who's to say they won't accept it again?

Margaret Hassan was killed today by her captors... the height of barbarity I believe. Unless there's something they're not reporting about her, she was a human rights activist working hard for many years to help the Iraqi people. Her killers may be trying to convince everyone that Iraq is unsafe for anyone with outside connections or origins, but they are also killing hundreds of innocent Iraqis, so they are if nothing else, desperate and misguided.

The pundits are all over the TV massaging the facts and images related to the marine killing the wounded Iraqi. The justice or injustice of the act can be debated for a long time, but one thing is apparent to me... one young man has killed another young man and both were sent by old men. Until young men question the rightness of killing for their elders we will have wars.

In another case an American soldier shot an Iraqi to death, to “put him out of his misery”, do we consider it a courtesy if our wounded soldiers were treated the same... no, I believe we raze cities for that.

It sounds to me like they are already “spinning” the facts, in preparation for the marines defense argument. “I didn’t mean to!” he blurted out, or something like that... yes just like when a junior high school boy shoots out the neighbors window with his BB gun. The day before the incident, this marine had been wounded in the face, the damage control report announces. Wells please tell us... how bad was it? If he’s back to work the next day how bad could it have been? Damage control also tells us that another marine had been killed by a booby trapped Iraqi body and that I have to take very seriously. Meanwhile the likes of Sean Hannity makes it sound like wounded and dead Iraqis are blowing up regularly all over Fallujah ... is that the case? The marine probably had heard about Iraqi wounded blowing them selves up, so I can see how the young marine would have responded as he did?

The pundits have announced that it’s okay to shoot dead bodies just in case, perhaps to detonate them from a safe distance? If so, why would you shoot a wounded man from a few feet away, wouldn’t that be a good way to get yourself blown up if he detonates? On the other hand, the marine is said to have shot him in the head, so that probably would prevent him from detonating himself... but where were the Iraqis hands? Could they be seen, or were they under his clothes where they could be clutching a detonator? There are a few questions that might be answered... of course some of you will say, it’s none of my business... he was just doing his job etc.

There are also reports that this isn’t the first time wounded Iraqi “terrorists” have been “executed” on the spot. It would be surprising if it hasn’t been happening occasionally elsewhere. Meanwhile, Don Imus makes the pronouncement that, these people are, “murdering bastards.” I’ve heard it all my life, Arabs are scum, subhuman, etc. It’s in our movies, it’s in our churches, it’s on the news, I’ve heard it in school, at picnics, in living rooms and in bars for the last thirty years. It remains to be seen if you will have to kill thousands more or will it be millions more, before you can pacify or “civilize” them. Meanwhile, you are the invaders not them.

I will refrain from your hero worship of our troops, at least in their current mission.

Wearing state of the art body armor they call in; Abrams tanks, C-130 gun ships,

Cobra helicopters, F-16s, Phalanx Gatling guns and hell fire missiles to pulverize the lightly armed Iraqis into little pieces. Most of the Iraqis that you kill are local fathers, sons and brothers. Time will tell if the coalition troops are liberators or occupiers... all though you have already decided. If they were defending us for real, especially here at home I'd join in your adulation, but at this point in time, I have some misgivings.

I constantly hear "I'd rather have us fighting them in Fallujah and Ramadi" than in NY and Chicago, even though it has never been even remotely established that the Iraqis had anything to do with 9/11 or that they were likely to have stockpiles of WMDs. I hear reports that we're killing foreign fighters, but then I hear that only 1% of those killed have been found to be foreigners... what's the truth? Meanwhile, we and our allies are the ones who undisputedly have WMDs and we are the ones that undeniably have used them to kill hundreds of thousands of civilians... in a matter of seconds.

There are local boys I know, who joined the marines, who were known for pulling some borderline "sick" stunts in high school and getting in various trouble around town. Although possibly nothing worse than my own son did. It's not difficult to train aggressive young men to be soldiers, it's probably harder to train them to be peaceniks! How convenient for the old men and women to have a ready supply of young men who are glad to do your dirty work. It's a story as old as history.

Throughout history such young men and other less frenetic ones have served valiantly for just causes, but to fight for religion and oil and call it for freedom and liberation is spurious. Why don't we send troops to stop the horrendous violence occurring daily in African countries? Is it because they aren't coveted by the oil companies, or pronounced evil by the neo-cons and our religious extremists?

The Israelis' claim that they have paid the Palestinians for much of the land and buildings that has been taken from them. Buy a few houses, steal a few hundred... it sure brings the price down!

Yes, there are mostly corrupt totalitarian regimes throughout the Middle East. Unfortunately its been that way throughout history, but they've also been on a war footing and virtually under marshal law since the west began it's occupation of the region 200 years ago. How hypocritical it is that we prop up, fund and support these dictators, as long as they don't threaten Israel, or give too many oil concessions to our rivals.

The key seems to be to "civilize them", and if the Arabs won't comply, the west does whatever it can to keep them weak, fragmented and unable to pose a threat to Israel. We sell them arms, but make sure the Israelis have a newer generation of weapon that along with good generalship will make the Arabs arms ineffective against the occupation forces... the weapons we sell Arabs only seem to be good for killing other Arabs.

Meanwhile, as long as the Arabs continue to terrorize and arbitrarily kill their own people, they will receive very little sympathy or moral authority from those in the world community who might be able to help them. I don't know if they have factored this in to the equation and decided that the world community is unwilling or unable to help them anyway, but I still think massive civil disobedience, peaceful protest and using their energy resources as bargaining chips would be a course worth trying.

There's no such thing as impartiality, look at the basket-brawl (11/19/04), between the Pacers and the Pistons. The calls and emails to the local TV and radio stations run mostly along fan loyalty lines ... no surprise. Similarly, we claim to be impartial in Iraq and it's easy to justify the elimination of a horrible regime like Saddam's, but the rest of the world does not see us as impartial liberators. They see a side of us that we refuse to acknowledge ... greed for oil and religious based support for Israel over the Palestinians.

If you're my age, you're probably familiar with Truth or consequences, but increasingly, it's more like obedience or consequences. If you don't jump to, come around to or somehow reach the conclusions that the powerful want you to, there could be consequences. It's much the same for weak nations versus strong ones... obedience or consequences. The powerful say, "your with us or against us" and there are consequences if you don't join their ranks. In both cases, the weak are given a chance to accept the pronouncements of the high and mighty, be they prophets, holy men, presidents or dictators. If we don't come around in due time, we are mishandled or worse by the powerful.

Why be surprised and outraged that Iraqis fight from minarets and mosques? Aren't many American and European churches designed like fortresses and intended to be used as such if necessary? The older ones look like castles and many of the new ones are also substantial. Is not the intent that in times of trouble, members would take refuge there to pray and make a last stand? Certainly many religious groups are well armed and wouldn't the main stream ones also be granted access to the local armory? After all, the commanders, sheriffs and other law enforcement officials are members of the churches and if there was utter chaos and anarchy, who do you think they would support?

Now they are asking us to send notes to the troops in Iraq and thank them for what they are doing for us. I definitely wish them peace and a safe return, but I'm not sure that I want to thank them for what they're doing. Once again an interest group is creating an obligation to help their cause. If you question anything about their program, you are called a traitor. They'll say just write anything positive and comforting ... just don't question their mission or criticize the war. Not a bad scheme and a pretty good form of group think, mind control...meanwhile,

W.W.J.B?

There are people out there, some of them close friend or loved ones, others customers or strangers, who have problems and make demands of me. Some are lazy, depressed, addicted, uneducated, etc., etc. You tell me that I should help them, but while I'm working for them and you, I can't do what I think I was put on this planet to do. You call that selfish and you may be right, but I think I'll ignore your advice this time. I agree that any humanitarian act is a good thing, but you would have me spending too much of my time on works that you deem good. Meanwhile, you support bombing and killing Arabs all over the world and if I say I would like to send money to those unfortunates, you say I am supporting terrorism. You call me self-centered, which I guess I am, but so are you, and when you tell me that I must do this or that, I should simply reply, do it yourself. All the rushing around I've done for all these years has only resulted in a thousand minor bumps, scrapes, cuts and bruises and for what? Individually they didn't hurt that much, but combined, they have left me arthritic and in chronic pain. It's been death by a thousand paper cuts, all so that we can own more and owe more.

Strange how all the time we were fighting the commies in Viet Nam, bombing villages and killing men, women and children, they weren't getting weaker... nor were there sponsors in Russia and China. They actually seemed to get stronger... it wasn't until we withdrew that the evil empire began to crumble... I wonder if this will repeat itself in the Middle East? Your argument that we have to fight, fight, fight holds less water than you think... sometimes we "win" when we don't fight.

A young Israeli soldier has been captured by the Palestinians... In response, the Israeli's have "arrested" fifty-three members of Hamas and mounted an offensive in the Gaza Strip. Bush has cautioned both sides to use restraint and he has praised the Israelis for the excellent implementation of their operation. I hate to tell you, but you can't do a "good job" in a military operation... it's an oxymoron, to kill people and blow things up and refer to it as a "good job."

Meanwhile, five members of the US military in Iraq have been accused of raping a young Iraqi woman, murdering her, burning her body and killing three members of her family to cover up their crime... an investigation is underway. So what's worse, atrocities by Iraqis against Iraqis, by Iraqis against Americans or by Americans against Iraqis... I'd say they're all sickening. Here at home, my wife told me that they had a nice Fourth of July church service, but she said it wasn't as nice as the one two or three years ago... I kept my mouth shut, as there's no use arguing over such things, but the service three years ago seemed to me to be nothing more than a war rally and I found it rather disgusting... I am indeed part of a very small minority.

I'd rather not state the obvious and say that you are better than Al Qaeda, that just makes you more gung ho and truthfully I think you both stink out loud and shouldn't be encouraged in the least.

We've been encouraged and enticed to drive gas guzzlers for generations... it may not have been contrived as such, but it's turned out to be a pretty good way to persuade many Americans that we need to fight to keep distant oil fields in "friendly" hands.

Toby Keith comes on the TV and I have to turn the channel, I will not watch this Arab hater. You tell me that's not true, but I see his music increasingly jingoistic and I can only surmise what seems true to me. If he doesn't hate Arabs, perhaps he only like Arabs that submit and have been straightened out... to me that's pretty much the same as hating Arabs.

The expert on Fox says we are in World War IV and we should be doing less bombing and working harder to overthrow the regimes of these rogue nations. He mentions all the usual suspects; Iran, North Korea and Syria and says they don't even feed their own people and the people hate the government. He leaves out Israel, which is logical since this is the corporate media, but I think the Palestinians hate their occupying government as much as any of those nations people hate the tyrants that rule them. Time will tell if we've been hugely successful or if we've sown the seeds of you know what...?

More shit hitting the fan in the Middle East, Hamas and Hezbollah kill eight Israelis... mostly soldiers. In retaliation, Israel kills about 100 Arabs... most of them civilians, but all over the US TV and newspapers, the Arabs are called the terrorists... Lots of people are being sent to meet their maker, all because these people can't get along, can't work out their differences... and serious differences they are.

Truth and reconciliation, peace and justice... sound like good goals. The UN makes a resolution against Israel's "disproportionate response" and of course the US vetoes it... so the record continues... the Israelis who have friends in high places have had very few resolutions against them stick.

You see the Palestinians fighting the Israelis with what ever they have at their disposal and it's not much, at least not compared to what the Israelis have at their disposal. They might feel threatened with extinction in a manner similar to what the Jewish people feel.

In the last few days I have seen virtually nothing even remotely sympathetic to the Palestinian cause in our corporate media... meanwhile the Israelis as they bomb away, are portrayed as valiant and righteous. So who are the terrorists... in this round of fighting, the Israelis have killed over 100 Arab civilians and the Arabs

have killed about ten Israeli civilians... but who's keeping score. The Arabs just can't win... first we're told that "God" gave away their land and then more recently, it was the United Nations.

Considering all the people as we have killed and maimed during our several hundred year history... do you think Americans will be treated mercifully if they ever fall? Of course this flies in the face of the "fact" that America is invincible and it also would serve as a rallying cry for Americans to keep fighting it's "enemies" so that we will never have to be called to account for; exterminating the Indians, enslaving Africans, abuses in the Middle East, nuking Japanese civilians, firebombing German civilians... etc. On the other hand, there's some truth that America is the guarantor of freedom throughout the world ... I just don't know how much truth there is... but I do know that freedom has to be on America's terms and per America's definition. Can you intimidate, violate and buy off the rest of the world to advance your elite's self interest indefinitely? Time will tell.

You mistake good things that you've done from time to time as an excuse to violate sovereign peoples. You rest on your laurels and see your glorious success as validation that you are the most righteous nation on earth... good luck compadres... good luck. Where are the people that lived on this land... our property... well since their ancestors were largely exterminated, there are very few of them left. They had no defense against our weapons and diseases, so they have largely disappeared from the landscape.

Bush might be right in his vision of the world and the Middle East... who knows? Time will tell how history will remember him... if at all. He may be the man God has selected to be the new sheriff in town, or he may be a rank pretender.

Perhaps the Arab's strategy is a long term guerilla war, maybe they think they can outlast the US and its allies. Possibly they are not taking into account that the US and Israel have nuclear weapons and many of their leaders would rather release all of them on the world than to not get their way. Both sides have numerous people who would rather there be no world at all, than one where they are not pre-eminent.

For those that say we have to be pre-emptive and destroy the "enemies" capability to injure us before they can utilize it. That makes sense, but if we do not address root causes of these conflicts, we may find that we run out of the money and the means to constantly preempt all the real and perceived threats that are out there.

Does Israel have the right to exist? That's up to God, not us... if God wants Israel to last forever, than if certainly will... I know that I've had it drummed into my skull that Israel's survival is just about job one for God. If the Book of Revelation and other Bible books that say Israel will survive as a nation is true, than the little nation will undoubtedly flourish ...

Funny how with all the shelling and missiles flying back and forth between Israel

and Lebanon, I have yet to see any American pundit criticize the Israelis. It sure would be nice if the pundit were given the “opportunity” to declare their biases. Like on the financial networks, where market mavens now routinely declare if they have a position on a stock they are recommending or panning. I’m not saying it should be mandatory... this is a free country and to force people to disclose their; religion, political affiliation, ethnicity or other things that could create a bias on their part would be wrong... but it would be enlightening to know more about them than what noble sounding think tank they belong to. Meanwhile the neocons take advantage of our freedom of speech to distort and twist the truth, pretzel like as they fill the airwaves with rank propaganda.

I’m not so much a “hyphenated” American as I’m an “asterisked” American. As an Arab American, I’m treated well enough... but there’s always a tinge of skepticism that I feel is attached to my “heritage”... I’m not saying we haven’t brought it on ourselves, but we have been pushed and our brothers lands occupied. Maybe our children will live this reputation down... after all they seem fully integrated into American society... but then I felt assimilated too until I was in my twenties.

You’ve had the so called luxury of being able to kill others in such numbers that they have to submit. That’s why my step father, my wife’s step father and my good friend all have made an almost identical statement, “we just haven’t killed enough of them.” My buddy at least has the tact to say it’s a shame, while the other fellows show considerably less remorse over the prospect. You have always had the “kill ratio” squarely in your favor and despite the losses taken by our side, you have consistently inflicted up to ten times the casualties on your “enemies.” Perhaps this will continue, perhaps it will not... and if it doesn’t, I expect that your “enemies” will be loathe to grant you the mercy you have denied others in your beloved all out wars.

Meanwhile the various components of the propaganda machine play on... reinforcing the concept that we have to kill more, “while we can, before it’s too late... while we have the upper hand... before they get nukes.” One thing that comes to mind is that the jingoes never want to negotiate, except with the intent of getting everything they are demanding. As long as they have the monopoly on nuclear annihilation, they can go through the motions of negotiating and expecting to get their way entirely or almost.

There’s nothing wrong with negotiating with the goal of achieving your intentions, but your moral high ground is questionable when you fully intend to exercise your military options if you don’t get damn near everything you are demanding. You justify rolling out the military option because by constantly pointing out that you’re the good guys and they’re the bad guys. That is certainly true some of the time, and may be true most of the time, but you’re not right all the time.

If you vanquish all of your “enemies” new ones will arise... even if they are your brothers or cousins... that is human nature. Just look at the Arabs and Israelis... I

don't think they are so different ethnically and the Bible even calls them both descendent of Abraham, yet because neither side has learned to solve their problems peacefully, they have been at their brothers throats for thousands of years. The point is... talk, don't shoot.

I think the Palestinians should use peaceful means, since violent resistance may not have gained them anything. On the other hand, I wouldn't expect them to listen to me and I'm certainly not surprised that they've used violent methods... who hasn't?

Nic Robertson CNN report's that "so far" 190 some odd Lebanese have been killed, only one confirmed as a Hezbollah fighter... that means a lot of Lebanese civilians have been blown up. He reports that 24 Israeli's have been killed, 14 of them soldiers... so tell me, who is waging war on innocent civilians? I know that Hezbollah is accused of starting this, but what came first the chicken or the egg? If blowing up innocent civilians is terrorism, there should be no excuses... both sides are guilty of terrorism... don't give me any excuses?

Looking at the Christians and Muslims, each side have perhaps equally bloody histories. If you add up all the people murdered by either side, you'd be shocked and appalled. Currently the west offers it's citizens better systems of justice, human and economic rights, although it's far from perfect and could learn a few things from Islam.

I don't agree with the jihadis tactics, but I can't say I'm surprised they employ them... what are the supposed to do, line up on a battle field so the crusaders can blow them to kingdom come?

The UN is the ultimate toothless tiger ... the world is dominated by the US and those that influence it. Amerika is stymied only by the Russians and Chinese, because of their ability to possibly to repel an attack and give us a taste of our medicine. On any other country, we are quite willing to unleash the dogs of war to get our way.

These friends and family that say "we just haven't killed enough Arabs... you have to keep killing them until they give up, that's how you get peace." Well if God's truly on your side, that may be true, but if you're just greedy, bloodthirsty bastards, then you'd watch out...

I've been something of an invisible man, a fly on the wall, as I don't look particularly Middle Eastern. I hear the comments from my countrymen and I wonder how prevalent this anti-Arab sentiment is... my impression is that it's ubiquitous. If I only heard the comments occasionally it would be one thing, but I hear over and over again, kill them, it's their fault etc... what am I to think?

Regarding what's going on over there now, I am not inclined to speak out too publicly. Yes, there is freedom of speech, but there are also severe repercussions

possible... the mechanisms are in place and one is safest if he sits down and shuts up. Whether it's Moses or Aaron coming out of the desert telling the natives to hit the road or die, or the powerbrokers who controlled the UN making it clear that the land of milk and honey will be given to the Zionists, the result is the same, screw the Arabs. This highly touted freedom of speech is used as much to weed out the "opposition" as it is to ensure freedom and democracy... the elite have long ago figured out how to use it to their advantage.

Shepherd Smith of FOX is talking adoringly about the Israeli artillery, as it pounds the Lebanese people... it sounds like he's getting turned on... meanwhile when the Katusha rockets fly overhead, he is disgusted and seems to have very little sympathy for the Lebanese. He even said he finds something or other related to the artillery fascinating.

Does the end justify the means and is your end goal even just and right? I question both of these things.

Is negotiation another form of occupation? I heard that remark made by an Israeli Arab on TV, who said that he is a second class citizen. It makes me think that is certainly can prolong an occupation, or it might help end it.

There are some very definite structural problems in the Middle East; mistreatment of women, minorities, domestic servants, workers in general, young boys who are virtually sold as camel jockeys etc. But is the answer to invade them to make them change?

Now Tyre and Beirut are being bombed... how many cities and towns have been hit by American munitions, either by us, or by our proxies? You will be beaten into submission ... The Israelis describe their attacks as pinpoint, but they've killed 600 Lebanese civilians so far... so much for pinpoint. Some say a political solution is the only way to achieve peace... but when the two sides are so far apart is that possible? The Israelis know that they can nuke every major city in the Muslim world if they have to... I believe them if they say they don't want to, but I think they will if they "have to."

The Protocols of the Elders, statements by George Washington, Ben Franklin, US Grant etc. have been discredited... but why should I automatically respect the dis-accreditation? Meanwhile you guys change with the wind.. one generation you're murdering them and the next you're bowing to them.

I'm not saying the Arab cultures shouldn't change, I'm just saying that bombing them into oblivion to make them change isn't the answer. Why kill the patient on the operating table, when you're more likely to help them get better with a holistic approach? Of course if you don't give a damn if they get better anyway and are just using that argument as an excuse, it's another story.

Our society needs improvements too, so I hope no one decides to bomb us back to the stone age in an effort to make us see the light. Of course at the present time, it's unlikely anyone could do that to us... but we are always planting seeds, always making a bed to lie in. You might say that we just need tweaking and they need an overhaul... personally I think we could all use an overhaul.

July 30, 2006... UN removes observers from the border several days after four UN observers had been killed by an Israeli air strike. People ask why would Israel have bombed the UN outpost? It just wouldn't make any sense they say on cue... well congratulations Israel you got what you wanted. The observers are gone and the brutality by the Israelis may no be ratcheted up even further.

The Israelis and western powers have everyone convinced that their intent is to kill only "terrorists" and that collateral damage is an unfortunate, but necessary cost of "doing business." Hezbollah on the other hand claims the right to use inaccurate missiles to achieve their goals... in both cases the dead civilians pay the price.

The collateral damage argument holds a lot more water, when it's not your people being blown up...

You can kill most of the Muslims in the world and gain a respite from "terrorism", but how do you know that you've killed virtually all of those who are against your occupation of their lands and willing to continue their resistance? Unless you hunt the remaining Muslims down everywhere and kill them, you are unlikely to achieve the peace and security that you desire. Chances are you will mostly kill innocent people and of those who are left, how will you know that you haven't made them even more fanatical?

Last week, the Israelis killed about sixty civilians in one or two building in Qana, Lebanon. They apologized, but said there were Hezbollah rocket launchers nearby... their American mouth piece on corporate TV said this might complicate an already complicated peace process. I see this "peace process" as being about as sincere as our negotiations with the native Americans were.

First of all, is Israel even a legitimately established nation? Well, if nations can be established by international edict and force then it certainly is... but that's how nations often fall as well. How lone will they remain "legitimate?" Perhaps as long as they and their champions have the force of arms to elevate them over other people in the region.

I doubt that many of my compatriots feel this way, but I fear my own government more than a nuclear armed Iran. The local authorities can grab me on real or trumped up charges any time they want and throw me to the wolves. In American prison's many inmates are sexually assaulted... that threat is a good way to keep the sheeple in line. Most white's never have to contend with the "system", unless they smoke pot or commit violent crimes, but the possibility of incarceration is still there.

If I refuse to pay my “share” of the taxes pay for our own nuclear “deterrent” and for the conventional bombs that are killing my Arab cousins, I will be thrown in the clink... that after I’ve been robbed of everything.

Meanwhile, what do the words “nuclear deterrent” really mean? I think they have two meanings... one is a legitimate deterrent against a nuclear strike against us and in classic double speak it also means, piss us off and we’ll turn your country into a sea of glass.

It seems like the average American is all for widening the war on “terror” and bombing the hell out of Iran, Syria and any other Muslim country that doesn’t cow tow to the US and Israel. If you don’t like baklava, humus and falafel, then you’re likely to find nothing nice about any Middle Easterners except the Israelis... because the Bible tells you so.

Ironic how almost five years to the day after the 9/11 attacks, the movie 9/11 is scheduled to be released. For several years, the opinion was that this appalling terrorist attack shouldn’t be capitalized on. Now the “powers that be” in Hollywood have decided that it’s not only time, but they should time it’s release to achieve the maximum impact that they need to encourage American’s to further hate Muslims and to simultaneously reap the greatest box office receipts.

Press Secretary Tony Snow, turned the reporters question around and snuffed him... “are you saying that Israel has anything to do with what’s going on in Iraq and Afghanistan?” It shut the man down...since if he had answered anything other than “of course not”, he could be labeled an anti-Semite and loose all “credibility” in this bastion of free speech.

Ironic how they’ll bomb the hell out of you and then bring in food and fuel to alleviate the human suffering.

What’s worse a society that oppresses it’s own people like the Bathist’s and North Koreans, or a society that occupies the lands of others and oppresses those native peoples like the US and Israelis? One thing I believe is that the Israelis and American’s treat their own people better than the Bathist’s and North Koreans treat theirs. We’re far from perfect, but we’re much better than those countries when it comes to their own subjects human rights.

Provocateurs, profiteers and war mongers stoke the fire of war in the middle east. From arms dealers to religious zealots clamoring for Armageddon and rapture they stoke the fire.

If I am an anti-Semite than most Americans are anti-Arab Semites... but I guess Arab Semites do not deserve the same respect as their fellow Semites the Jewish people. Despite you attempt to tarnish me by calling me anti Semitic or anti-Jewish, I dispute that, in fact I am very much like many Jewish people... basically

half European and half Semitic. I don't mind however being seared with the anti-Zionist and Crusader brands... I differ very much with those points of view.

Fifteen thousands ton of heavy fuel oil have leaked into the Mediterranean sea, due to Israeli bombing of a Lebanese fuel depot. The beaches have been ruined for years, the marine life devastated, the sea turtles that are ready to hatch will all die and many businesses will be ruined. Kuwait and Jordon have offered equipment to clean the spill, but the Israelis will not allow safe passage so the slick moves north towards Beirut threatening the beaches there as well. Not even UN environmental experts are being allowed in by the Israelis.

Newt Gingrich that SOB apologist for the army of ZOG says at least they drop leaflets before the bomb the Lebanese... so did the Germans.

The only way the Arabs and Muslims will ever have a chance at justice would be for them to get their hands on nuclear weapons, plenty of them, and delivery systems. As things now stand, the American's and Israelis will gladly blow them to kingdom come, while the rest of the world stands by and watches. The American, Israeli axis is and always has been determined to have things exactly their way and will stop at nothing to achieve their "victory."

Hezbollah says that if Israel hits central Beirut, they will hit Tel Aviv. I doubt that ZOG would be particularly upset about that... After all, they are just looking for an excuse to nuke the Muslim world, before it can develop an adequate nuclear deterrent.

I surf the channels and land on CBN with Pat Robertson's son leading the troops today. The headline on this bastion of impartiality is "Israel versus Hezbollah." It's a freaking ball game and the "good guys" are going to win...

I wonder if it's just a coincidence that the Israeli government reportedly doesn't provide bomb shelters for it's Arab subjects at nearly the rate it does for full fledged Israelis.

Zom (zionist occupied media) has it covered from all angles... right wing talk show hosts, stupid sitcoms that drain our brains... what better way to keep the sheeple complacent?

Are we draining the swamp to get rid of the rats, or are we stirring up a hornets nest that we didn't have such a reason to light up in the first place? We continue to sow the wind and someday... someday, we might just wish we had dropped fewer bombs.

What's going to happen in the middle east? My friends tell me to read the Bible... all I know is that presently, Muslims are being killed in their homes and neighborhoods by the thousands. If there is a God, Karma or ultimate justice, either they are being punished, or someone else will in the long run.

Your much touted freedom of speech seems to work best for those who spout the party line.

The UN gave Palestine to the Zionists...the Arabs want their land back... as far I know they nothing to do with the holocaust... in fact my Egyptian cousins mother was a German Jew,

who found refuge in Egypt and married his Egyptian father. I've heard she was loved by the extended family.

Every news channel has a catchy anti Muslim and Arab teaser... "The Plot for Terror", "Know the Enemy"... etc. It's been slanted from day one!

If it's remotely true that these are people who'll kill you for wearing shorts, not wearing a beard, or veil, then those at the top are the lowest types of criminal and anyone who supports these laws is a coward or at least scared to resist.

The speaker said that Israel has been a fact for generations... that may be true for many, especially those raised by ZOG and the church, but for 100s of millions of Muslims, it is not a valid one.

On a clear day, you could see the World Trade Center it was an incredible site... There were cars at the train station that the owners never came back for... they couldn't.

This may very well be a clash of civilizations... I prefer ours but consider it sick also... not nearly as sick as theirs, but still very sick. I hope both can be cured... but don't know the answer. If you tell me those are the two choices, I will disagree... there are peace loving, non-hegemonistic countries out there too. We all miss the mark... nations and individuals... I'm not sure any are close enough to perfection as to be qualified to over run others.

If you didn't invade and occupy you probably wouldn't have stirred up this hornets nest.

Warrantless wire taps have been declared unconstitutional... I don't mind them using them, as long as they only use them to catch terrorists... but even a kinder gentler police state will be inclined to abuse it's power.

Dear God... why take the land from those people

Our system is better, but for centuries theirs has been under attack from without and from within... no wonder it's a mess. Are their excesses a reaction to the outside attacks they have been faced with for centuries, are they due to the shortcomings in their system, or is it a combo or something else? Clashing ideologies and religions generally do more harm than good.

Hezbollah TV is banned in the US... I guess it's propaganda and has nothing to do with our right to hear all sides of the issue. The media on all sides is made up of liars... not everyone in the media, but structurally the media is, or has become a tool for dissemination of each sides party line... another words lies.

The crusader, Zionist agenda is and always has been to injure the indigenous people in any way possible, until they; submit, vacate, or die... it has very little to do with freedom. Let the Zionists keep whatever property they acquired legitimately prior to 1948 and return the rest... lock, keys and deed. If they don't like living in the promised land under those conditions, let them return to Brooklyn or wherever they came from

If being a good American means supporting perpetual warfare to get our way, then I'm not a good American. I know I can't have it both ways, so under the current leadership, I'm a paria.

GOP... ZOG, hey they rhyme.

The state department is probing whether or not the Israeli's dropped American made cluster bombs on the Lebanese, in violation of prior "agreements." Let me guess, the Israelis will say they were only used on "terrorist" targets and the US will find that explanation fine and dandy.

As far as my Arab brothers who are using violence, I would encourage them to try Ganhdi, Martin Luther King or the later Nelson Mandela like strategies. That doesn't mean I don't sympathize with their struggle, or have "some" understanding of their violent urges... I just think there's probably a better way.

Saying "only in America... you can do or have this, or that", is easy to say, but have you researched it? Have you been anywhere else?

Attacking Iraq for 9.11 would be like attacking China for Pearl Harbor... there would have to be a parallel agenda. In GW's latests speeches he again makes clear that this is a crusade to re-make the middle east into something more to our liking.

I see what we're doing in the Middle East as either another crusade or the end of the world. If its another crusade, I hope we lose... if it's the end of the world I hope we win. Regardless, I'm not that take GW's word on this for anything. Unfortunately, this could be both the end of the world and a crusade. The final battle could be started by either side, although I don't think that matters as much as trying to stop it... before it's too late.

It's not surprising that the interstate highway system was designed around our defense requirements... which meant having straight stretches of highway every so often in case our aircraft needed emergency landing strips. The advent of the interstate highway system meant the end of light rail commuter lines in most cities and made us into the most oil dependent society in the world. Eventually, we declared our willingness to use the military to defend our right to procure oil... come hell or high water. If a country would rather sell to someone else, they may be subjected to regime change, clandestinely or otherwise...

The military industrial complex along with their cronies, the oil and auto companies made this happen, their owners grew rich and the rest of us grew fat, lazy and dependent on cheap gasoline.

Why would you expect me to take an anti-Palestinian position? I'm an Arab-American, I look at things differently and have experienced things differently than you. You want me to spout the party line or shut up... which means our freedom of speech has strings and repercussions attached. There seems to be freedom of speech and religion as long as you are a "member" of the mainstream religion and spouting the party line. Otherwise you're marginalized or worse.

Fox news may be the equivalent of the Hearst publishing empire of the nineteenth and 20th century. That jingoistic rag helped start the Spanish-American war, while Rupert and his lackies seem bent on starting Armageddon - touché!

The neocons will try to pit Arab men against Arab women, which will probably result in more repression against Arab women. In any case, the plan is clearly to divide and conquer ... and it's the usual, tried and true, cynical and mean-spirited approach the west

has always used.

If we had let the Muslims take care of their own internal affairs these last 200 years, possibly they would be more moderate today. Can we say moderation will be achieved through our interventions.

"Iraq on the brink", in a brutally honest report, the Pentagon states that unlawful militias are creating havoc in Iraq. I think the biggest unlawful militia is the US military, but it has achieved the neocons goal of driving this Arab country into utter anarchy and chaos.

Sean Hannity on Fox was trying to pin his Arab "guest" down, he wanted a "simple", "yes or no – whether or not - are Hamas and Hezbollah terrorists. It's a classic and highly effective way to frame the discussion and marginalize your "opponents" view from the very start. So, Mr. Hannity?"- please define terrorism... is it killing innocent civilians and if it is, then what was Hiroshima? Or you could say, they are freedom fighters, who are using terrorism as a tactic? Or I might say, it's none of your business... I just want a truce one piece I want justice. I want to this address in the and in n

When you're dealing with neocon crusaders, they are only interested in putting you in a corner in a box .

There are a lot of remembrances about 9/11 today. A firefighter who helped recover bodies, says the first one he found made him think about its family. He said that family had every right to expect their loved one to come home from work that night. I completely agree, and think it was, horrible criminal act to bring down the towers, I also think it's a criminal act to bring down a thousand smaller buildings in Iraq. And those people have a right to go home at the end of their day.

The evening news on this fifth anniversary of 9/11 is all about pain and suffering and I agree it should be, but it's happening on both sides of the ocean. Who's the bombs fell first? American-made bombs have been falling on the middle east for 50 years, through our proxies, and now, courtesy of our military. Another image that comes to mind is the mushroom cloud over Hiroshima. The Japanese commemorate that every year, they remember the innocent civilians who were killed in 1945... Americans are usually silent and few attend those ceremonies.

Bush talks about an ideological war and the news shows barbaric looking Afghans with long beards, dirty faces and turbans. The implication is that we need to civilize these quote unquote bastards, but we are doing it with bombs. We seem to be making the Taliban even stronger, since they are seen as being able to provide security, at least a measure of security. The Afghans have fought invaders for centuries, we are seen as another invader and our bombs and our culture are not universally welcomed.

They're talking to an Arab-American actor and director on NPR, they say Hollywood is not bad, just ignorant of Arabs. I tend to believe Hollywood is bad and has a very strong anti-Arab bias and pro-Zionist agenda. The movie is called America East.

I am a very Americanized Arab-American, I don't look particularly Arab-American, I've only been over there three times and I don't speak Arabic... but my sensitivities are with the Arab people.

In the latest battles between Hezbollah and the Israelis. They say, over 1000 Lebanese civilians were killed, and approximately 150 Israelis were killed... most of them soldiers.

Who are the terrorists... that's not even to mention the billions of dollars of property damage the Israelis inflicted on Lebanon, compared to the minor property damage they suffered.

When they are phrasing them. They call them Navy SEALs. When they do something wrong, they call them Navy Corps men. Dateline Oceanside California: The Iraqi man, Awaad, was allegedly dragged from his home, beaten, thrown in a hole on the side of the road, along with an AK-47 spent shells and a shovel. Then he was shot full of holes and the man claimed he had been making a roadside bomb. Shumate's defense team says there is no physical evidence to prove that he and the other soldiers did anything wrong. They also say the Iraqi witnesses are liars. Of course, Shumate's soldier friends will tell the truth, won't they?

You can be pro-Israeli all day long and there are no problems. But if you are pro-Palestinian. They automatically call you the anti-Semitic and un-patriotic - I'm not surprised... I just don't like it. If you question that God gave that land to the Israelites and authorized them to go in and slaughter the Canaanites and everybody else. You're considered a blasphemer and heretic. I don't like those labels, but if you want to call me that go head

Legal versus illegal combatants... who decides... apparently international lawyers decide, are they objective? I think that more often than not people fighting on their own soil are more legal than invaders.. There are other criteria such as who's fighting for what and who's oppressing who -- I don't consider the international lawyers. Qualified to make these determinations.

This week in the news Senator McCain, Graham, Collins and one other face-off against George W., regarding prisoner interrogation. The senators want to follow the Geneva Convention, while George wants to itemize what you can and cannot do. This should be interesting during the midterm election. Our country is designed to have checks and balances, but for the last few years. Republicans have controlled the Senate, the Congress and the White House and the Supreme Court... where are the checks and balances now?

For several years it's been my son that I worried about regarding peer pressure to fight for the neocons. Now my daughter wants to go to a small Christian college... as a second-generation Arab-American. What pressures will she face to conform.

The Army is about as effective as the police in protecting us... they win some and they lose some.

The pope has offended the Moslems and they are up in arms. There has been violence, they've allegedly killed a nun, and burned down several churches. Meanwhile, a priest is explaining that the da Vinci code is heretical and blasphemous. It's too bad, the religious leaders of any faith can get their followers so riled up as to go out and kill in the name of religion. I hope someday that ends, then maybe the truth will be learned.

In George W.'s speech to the United Nations. He mentioned a calling for our generation. Well, this calling is to make war on Islam. He won't allow stem cell to be harvested which might help millions of people with health problems, but he has no problem authorizing bombing of thousands.

Countries and their people are more likely to advance freedom when they are not being

attacked by us

Listening to the pundits on TV, discussing how important is that Iran not get nukes. I realized that if I don't spout the party line had better shut up. All I can say about that is bunk as in Bunker Hill.

Is it just me or do the president of Iran in George bush look a bit alike? There's something about their eyes... By all means, call me a Bush basher if you want, but don't call me an America hater... it's bullshit - but you use that invective to good effect in your effort to squelch debate.

The Zionists should be ashamed of them selves for stealing that country... fat chance.

Mr. Rubin is a speaker on TV for the Center for international cooperation... now doesn't that sound nice but what is their agenda.

Richard arbitrage told General Ma mood of Pakistan after 9/11, that they are either with us or against us. He may have even told them that if they didn't cooperate they be bombed into the Stone Age. Of course, he denies it all could use the same one that leaked Valerie plane's name.

The US is the most powerful country in the world, but I don't know if it's more powerful than all the rest combined. Of course we act like we are in there may be a price to pay for that Imperial hubris.

September 22, 2006 CNN... the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have now costs \$500, billion, and 70 billion more was approved today.

The Zionists are a special interest group comprised of Jews, Christians and others. Not all Jews or Christians are Zionists... but a lot of them are.

As far as America is concerned, There are two skies over the Middle East... one for Israel, and one for the Muslims. One is cloudy, and one is bright -- guess, which is which.

The president of Iran is accused of playing the UN like a fiddle... surely he is, but he's not the only one. Our media tells us that the anti-Israel rhetoric is insane and that you're a China and Russia are all so dead set against Iran and pro-Israel. I find that hard to believe... they are no more or less blackmailed by Iran and its oil than they are by us and our money. Zeal for Zionism.

Anderson Cooper, the teaser to his show asks is a military showdown with Iran evitable... ...well, they're sure trying to make it that way

When is the last time the Japanese or Korean's bombed my Arab cousins? I mean it too... I was in Egypt one time at the airport and there was no ceiling -- the Israelis had bombed the place.

I don't think we should repeal the Geneva conventions... if there's a terrorist. Who knows where a nuke is. It's going to be detonated than on a case-by-case basis. Let the highest possible officer of the government or military make the decision and be accountable for it. Don't allow torture though to be routine, which is what could happen if GW's plan is passed. Last but by no means least, let's address the root causes. GW calls torture "alternative procedures" that's classic doublespeak. Bill Clinton called at whacking people around -- that's a little more accurate. Clinton may have been unfaithful and promiscuous, but at least he wasn't a mass murderer.

My position derives from the fact that I don't believe God actually told the Israelites that they could have Canaan. Maybe they thought he did, but I don't believe it... I wonder if he told the Canaanites the same thing? Some people will say, they weren't worth even talking to, or they might say yes, God told them also. They might also say -- the Canaanites refused to listen or that there's no record of it, because the Canaanites had no written records or would refuse to record such an edict. The most that I will ever believe is that the two peoples are supposed to share the land peacefully and justly.

Terrorism, which I think is a disgusting tactic is just that a tactic. It diminishes our feeling of security and our belief that we can send our bombers around the world to make others submit and conform to our views. For the last 60 years we have been able to impose our will, with the loss of soldiers that some Americans have considered a cost of doing business. Terrorism especially the threat of mass terrorism changes that equation... I would argue that we were terrorists in World War II when we nuked Japan. Our law ears called it legitimate... once again the law was an ass

I think that what the terrorists do is terrible and horrible disgusting wrong... but I'm not surprised they do it -- does that make me a bad person... it's just an observation?

There are 16 American spy agencies -- they put together the national intelligence estimate. In September 2006 this report said that the Afghan and Iraqi wars have actually increased terrorism. Good job Georgie boy!

I think the Ishmael factor is highly unlikely, at least as far as me being a crazy person. But I think it's highly likely that that Ishmael factor excuse will be used against me. After all, it has been for 3000 years.

Our system is definitely better than theirs view that we have lost some of our rights here too. Should I be willing to fight for this in perfect system against those horrendous systems or do I wait for something even better to come along.

Wolf Blitzer can afford to use his real name at least when he's working in the USA... he is in the driver seat. I'm just a naughty kid in the back of the bus. At least I tell you what my bias and background is... I don't think he ever has... although most people wouldn't care.

Overall, I don't think this country will ever deviate from its unconditional support of Israel. Will that be its salvation or its demise? Perhaps that depends on if the Bible is the spoken Word of God... and is there a middle road something other than unconditional support of Israel against the Palestinians every time? Would such a policy shift change or even matter?

Sudan's president says he will not allow you and troops into the country, because that is a pretext for recolonization of his country. Meanwhile African Union troops are there and unable to stop the rape and murder of huge numbers of black Africans live in the southern part of the country. What's going on here, does it have to do with migrations of people and competition over scarce good land? Sudan is halfway between black Africa and the Arab Middle East. It's neither fish nor fowl that the blacker Africans in the South mean to change it.

I believe I can be against an administration without being against our country... in fact, I think I can be against administration and be wholly for our country.

Can I be against terrorism and also against the war on terrorism? I think so, what do you think? I thought so!

This is a big fat dangerous world, we need police we need the military... but I question whether we need to be meddling all over the world. The horror of 9/11 has been visited on many other countries, McNamara says we killed 3.4 million in Vietnam... well maybe that was both sides toll -- but the fact remains. We have killed millions and millions of soldiers and civilians not to mention the genocide of the Native Americans and African slave trade. Now we've been directly or indirectly involved in the death of over 100,000 Iraqis and Afghans... what's next George. When you play with fire and bombs you can get burned or blown up -- as can many innocent bystanders.

Now the administration wants to control who is entitled to habeas corpus. The right to see the evidence presented against you. This is older than the Constitution on -- goes back to the Magna Carta... the administration could care less -- their priority is maintaining the status quo and the power of the elite. As always, the quote best unquote way to do this, is to send your storm troopers around the world and kick ass. The American people seem to largely support the administration's policies... after all they receive enough scraps to make it seem worthwhile. The elite would like to save this system essentially unchanged... some of us would like to see improved dramatically. I don't want to see Islamification or Talibanization... but some positive changes, part of which means not trying to impose our will on others nearly as often as we do -- let's set good examples instead of dropping bombs.

The administration is getting its way in another area... for 90 days after a terrorist incident warrantless wiretaps are permissible. So what is a terrorist attack... you might say it's pretty clear what one is... but the lawyers will define it... and that means trouble for anyone the administration doesn't like. You can be called a terrorist no matter who you are and they will have the tools to deal with you. If you're a wasp is toeing the line, you probably have nothing to worry about.

The Canadian was sent to Syria by the US administration where he was tortured... nobody gives a shit, because he's an Arab. One thing holding us back from turning the Middle East into a sea of glass, is that we don't want to start a nuclear winter that will affect us negatively. If our scientists can develop nukes that won't trigger one look out!

Many Americans are saying on the Afghans into oblivion -- that will solve the problem they think -- what do you think made the meme in the first place? They been invaded and occupied at least since Alexander the great... so who's trying to take over the world us or them? Who would I rather see take it over -- actually, neither but if you force me to decide between the two get to would be the West.

The national intelligence estimate says that if the Jihadis are defeated in Iraq it will deflate their global jihad -- I don't think anything will accept us getting the hell out of their land. Why do we feel entitled to to jump on people anywhere in the world -- it seems like it's religious and commercial interest that drive those policies.

GW is reportedly meeting with Henry Kissinger... he probably thinks he's a great man. I think he's a criminal.

Patrick Buchanan says the American people don't want to lose this war -- forget about the pretenses under which it started or the destruction and death we' re wreaking -- we just don't want to lose the game -- it's just like football.

I wouldn't be surprised if Bush is hoping this will snowball into Armageddon, he would probably love presiding over that disaster.

There are people who are adamant that I don't hyphenate my name... when you come here you're supposed to surrender any past loyalties and ethnicities etc. and submit to the will of the majority. That's neither all good nor all bad as far as I'm concerned -- I'm exaggerating but only a little bit.

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Our own government is depriving me of the right to be the king of my little castle... instead I am the subject. The elitists of our society are socially engineering at to obtain their desired result. I don't like that. On the other side of the world. The Taliban and is cruel and treats women inhumanely but I'm pretty sure. I don't support attacking them to make them change. I think we should first be trying to and courage them to change via our own good example. Unfortunately, they look at us see that men have been neutered, if not castrated over here -- why would they welcome us and doesn't that tend to harden their position. It seems that that's how human nature works.

The Taliban and may very well need to be overthrown or to be radically reformed. But I see that as being up to the Afghan or Pakistani people. Not up to us --

Just as it would be almost impossible to be moderate or liberal in a Taliban controlled area -- America's is becoming increasingly intolerant. As the president says, you are with him or against him and he is on an unholy crusade.

I am not anti-this group or anti-that group... I am anti being inhumane. Yes, some of these groups are worse than others. Some are a lot worse, but they are all in the same basket, some are just on top of the heap, so they can afford to seem nicer. Whether they are political parties, religious groups, think tanks, or who knows what else, they are all members of a rogue's gallery. You'll call this despicable or hypocritical coming from my mouth... but I'm not America first I am for humanity first.

You say, why should pundits and news analysts disclose their ethnicity religion or bias? You say that if they do, people will first be looking at them as; Christians, Muslims, Jews, Black, Catholic etc. instead of listening to what they say. I disagree and think it is a logical way of providing appropriate context to their comments. Without this context, these “experts” have are free to influence (if not mislead) people in favor of their own religious, or other special interest groups agenda... not to mention it would show where their true loyalties may primarily lie.

Who will be the next one to use in nuclear weapons and anger – will it be China, Russia England, Iran, Israel – or the USA. Whoever it is, will probably feel justified and their lawyers will rationalize it. And they will claim they’ve done it for the betterment of the majority of mankind.

The Taliban is cruel, dictatorial and horrific – there are no checks and balances to speak of on these councils of elders or whoever is making these arbitrary decisions. There is no due process. Our system has better checks and balances, although we have a corrupt application of the system, with the rich and the preferred special interest group of the moment getting the benefit of the doubt. With that in mind. I’m not particularly inclined to fight for our system to replace there is – let them figure it out. It is more likely to stick that way. What I will fight for his individual sovereignty with constitutional guarantees of human, economic and civil rights – but I’m an Army of one. And I have no teeth.

The Taliban is brutal and disgusting, but they will always have an advantage over us because we are invaders and occupiers. They are locals and neighbors. As long as we are there the Taliban’s brutality and support for them, from a cross-section of the population will continue. Islama-fascist states like the Taliban are brutal, and the rule of law is replaced by intimidation and murder. Our system on the other hand, offers due process – supposedly, but we are also in the final analysis, ruled by force and intimidation. We either have big brother or the nanny state telling us what we can do and when we can do it and what to do with our money and the elite among them decide how our money is spent. If we don’t like it. The sanctions are severe financial ruin and eventual imprisonment, where many are subjected to humiliation and sexual assault – that’s a pretty good control mechanism to keep us in line. Just the other day, a good friend was telling me that smoking should be banned entirely – I said, I respectfully disagree and think that higher taxes on smoking may be reasonable to help pay for the medical expenses they incur and made you to pay for treatment programs. But to ban it entirely is an example of the government going too far.

The moderator on NPR’s Saturday morning show left right and center, is a senior fellow at the Center for American progress, my isn’t that noble sounding. The pundit on the right an editorial writer for the Washington Times has written a book about the West’s last chance. I hope the West does win this clash of civilizations, and I hope it’s by our examples and good work, not our bombs. We are more likely to

win the hearts and minds of people in far-off places, if they can see that we are improving our own system and making it “irresistible”, instead of trying to destroy their systems.

Unfortunately, we are inclined to improve our system or to talk with those we strongly disagree with. Of course, most of us think we are unbeatable, and we may be in a conventional war, but in unconventional/asymmetrical conflicts, we may be quite vulnerable. When the jingoes hear that, they are only a little bit concerned, and say well we just need to wipe them entirely off the face of the map. They are quite willing to do that and maybe it will work-- or maybe it will backfire, and we will all end up in the dark ages again.

I find it interesting that the former soccer moms who are now sometimes referred to as security moms are the most fervent supporters of our biased policies in the Middle East.

They demand security, but have no desire for America to be an impartial peace broker, so in the end, they are creating a situation of perpetual war.

Headline on Fox news, Iran continues to defy the world community. The world community, which by Fox’s definition, must mean; America or Britain and Israel, doesn’t want your wrong, or anybody they don’t approve of, to have nukes. Only the select club that they approve should have the right of nuclear blackmail. I don’t particularly want to see that club enlarged, but when the genie’s out of the box it’s hard to put her back inside.

The NPR reporter who was embedded with the military in Iraq said they told him this "this unit is your mother. And you don't write blank about your mother."

If Iraq is not mostly about coveting oil, revenge, and Israel's security -- and I'll eat my hat.

Human emotions have not changed, what we will tolerate has not changed much either -- I'm watching something about the carnage at the Battle of Gettysburg and they are re-counting remarks made by the eyewitnesses. The remarks, are not much different than those made by modern eyewitnesses to violence and carnage. People are as appalled as ever, by such violence, but people also seem to be as "understanding" as ever when the violence serves our interests.

Nuclear proliferation is kind of like gun control... if you have a gun you probably are against controls. With nukes, those who have them want to keep them... they also prefer that no one else gets them.

We went into Iraq... among other reasons, because we thought they couldn’t fight... otherwise we’d already be in North Korea and God knows where else. It’s not so brave to use force against those who you think can not put up much of a fight.

The jihadis say they stopped Russia in Afghanistan—and they hope to add stopping America in Iraq to their resume. These wars are Battle's may go down in history. Like other famous battles involving the clashes of civilizations. Like Attila and Genghis Khan being stopped, like the Muslims being stopped at the gates of Vienna, like the Nazis being stopped at Stalingrad.

The Iraqi insurgents seem willing to destroy their country before letting it be remade in the image of the neocons

The Marines have beautiful uniforms, and people go crazy over them there so brave there so handsome -- sorry. I'm not too impressed. They're having a coming home party for the young Marine from our neighborhood, we are all invited to show our respect and appreciation for him fighting for our rights. So what am I congratulating him for, because I am skeptical of this fighting for our rights business. Am I congratulating him for his blind obedience to authority, for killing terrorists, insurgents or boys in the hood, for blindly obeying authorities, or for just killing foreigners in their own land. What I would applaud him for, would be to question authority and better yet, to beat his rifle into something more useful.

If you are preaching peace and beating swords into plowshares, but at the same time, shooting and blowing people up -- why would they believe you, just be a better example.

As far as all this talk about the young soldiers protecting bums like me, so that we can live our worthless lives, I disagree. I understand that freedom is not free or cheap, but I still find your argument at least under the current circumstances, baloney. I think you've them sold a false bill of goods by the establishment and swallowed it hook line and sinker. You may even be willing to join their SWAT teams, and hunt down any dissenters that head for the hills...

If you are defending anybody's rights, it's the right of shoppers to spend like crazy on next year's garbage, to keep propelling this economy forward and fueling the military-industrial establishment. That will make our president gasman very happy indeed – not to mention very rich.

Yes we do lead by example but what is our example – football. Crime. Aggression. Materialism... crow about Christianity, but our examples are seldom Christlike. Maybe our examples should be in the areas of medical technology, clean energy and the like... but that's not where we spent our national treasure. We seem to be all about victory conquest, pushing our weight around and getting our way – culturally, religiously, financially and ideologically.

Stay the course, cut and run, Boots on the ground, Stood up -- another buzzword for 2006.

In California, Josh Wolff has gone to jail for refusing to turn over a video to the police... it showed the faces of protesters at a world economic summit in San Francisco. Apparently, a policeman had his skull fractured in a frock is there... I wonder how many protesters were injured? He claims he is a freelance journalist, but the authorities say he doesn't work for a corporation, so he does not have the benefit of any shield laws. Since they could not get him with state law, they use federal law, which doesn't allow shield laws.

I consider myself strongly against the Taliban and Al Qaeda... but you will never accept it as strong enough unless I support and clamor for carpet bombing of the Arab nations. I will never do that, not even close.

If the Hebrews saw a land of milk and honey, who had worked the land. I wonder... who had produced the milk and honey... I don't think he was just cows and bees.

Market to Muslim bookstores, Amazon and Barnes & Noble offer to publishers... don't give it away free... except perhaps CDs that are right protected.

Heard a quote from our fearless leader the other day, "the way were running this war is to give the General's flexibility." The idiot in chief, talks about "running a war"... it fits right in with his personality and dreams of being the sheriff of the world -- he might as well be "running" a f --ing sandwich shop or in his case an oil company.

He also said that the parents of the soldiers have to understand, that if he didn't believe they would succeed he wouldn't have their loved ones there. I guess he needs the parent support, although not their permission... the PTB has at all figured out 18-year-olds will gladly go to war.

Hispanics and Asians but not want to be overwhelmed by them and their cultures? Can I love women, but disagree with community property and child custody laws? I think it's possible, but others may not. I don't want to subjugate anyone or be subjugated to the opposite.

The neocons imply that you're not a loyal American, unless you support the administration. Its ideology and policies... that reminds me just a little of being a good Germans in World War II -- it's not exactly the same, but there are parallels.

You say God gave you the promised land and so far, he seems to have been on your side, granting you victory after miraculous victory over the “Godless heathens” that you are cleansing the land of. It seems that neither you or God has given them permission to be there... or at least that’s what everyone around here believes. Moses heard from a voice in a bush that he held title to the Philistines and Cananites lands... why am I not surprised that they didn’t believe him.

I would hate to be put in the position of having to try and extract information from someone who knew where a nuclear weapon was, that was set to go off imminently – I can only imagine how far I would go.

On the news today. They were interviewing American soldiers in Afghanistan, they said they didn't want to go through with the Vietnam veterans went through. So they said it's important that we win... just a freak in football game, save face come out on top win no matter what. They also say that they're fighting for our rights and fighting so that Al Qaeda or the Taliban and don't attack us on our soil, and they might be right about that. I'm not sure. I do think however that are meddling over the air had a lot to do with us being attacked over here.

They also mention that they are protecting our constitutional rights, and trying to win the same for the Afghans. I agree there is a lot of truth to both of these points... but I think there is also a fair amount of baloney. I'm not sure the average Afghan man wants to lose his rights to Afghan women, but if he doesn't give her equal rights, and perhaps he deserves to. I just hope that they don't take it as far as we have taken it over here, where I think men have lost too many rights and women have gained more than equal rights.

As far as freedom of speech. There's plenty of that, you parrot the party line, if not, there are repercussions -- it's a perfect system for the elite and for the establishment. If you say too much. You're marginalized and eventually silenced, most likely by a "lunatic"... a perfect system in the -- the establishment's hands are "clean", since they had "nothing" to do with it. All I'm saying is why settle for having a system that's better than Iraq or Iran and North Korea -- when we can have a system that's much, much better than theirs and even better than our current system.

When friends acquaintances and others ask if I support our troops in Iraq, I should say a support their safe return to the USA. Of course that's not what I'm supposed to say -- and maybe tend to brand me as a leftist or a traitor in the eyes of the jingo patriots. They want to hear that everyone supports the defeat of the "enemy", another "glorious" victory for the American military and the subjugation of another Arab country. That I don't support... I support reform in those countries,

but reform by example and means other than bombing. Around here that can be misconstrued as disloyalty to America.

Another serviceman is being interviewed on the radio this morning... he put in his time in Iraq, and now is working as a Republican campaign organizer and Pennsylvania. He tells people we have to fight the war against terrorism in Iraq, because these people won't stop until there are no girls in school, all women are wearing burqas and there is an Islamic caliphate from Spain to Malaysia. I think that as long as you're there, you are making their dream come true... if and when we leave. They will sort out their problems. Unfortunately, it might be quite bloody, but they can probably sort out better than we can. Hopefully they won't have another brutal dictator, but that's a possibility... I don't know if our occupation is any better.

Russia is trying to increase the energy. It gets from nuclear power plants to 30 something percent from the current 16%. I suppose this way, they can sell oil to bring in cash. They just signed a deal with bold area to supply them with the nuclear plant. They are building one in Iran and offering them to Egypt and others... I guess I'm supposed to be opposed to these Russian policies... but I must say my major concern is the safety of the design of their reactors. I'm not solidly behind the US "position" on the subject -- our position is based on making the rich richer and protecting the establishment and our own occupied government. Our nation has been under occupation since the money men took over... which has been a long time. Read what the Baron said... he was talking about King's, but it doesn't matter who's on the throne king or president... whoever controls the money, controls the military, the politicians and the people. If you control the money, the media as well as being the majority of the lawyers out there, then you own the whole ball of wax. The generals, soldiers and politicians are simply employees of the lawyers and bankers and media moguls.

About the Author

KW Ibrahim's father was born and raised in Egypt, his mother is an American. KW was conceived in Egypt, born and raised in the USA and has traveled to the Middle East several times. The author graduated from college in the 1980s and has worked for over twenty years as a business consultant for clients from at least a dozen countries and four continents.

This book is titled *Opus Oil*, because oil is the most coveted resource in the world

and likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. The USA has made it clear that any attempt to restrict its oil supply, will be considered an act of war, which has provided KW with food for thought.

The focus of this opus is geopolitics and the Middle East, but religion and other topics are intertwined and share the spot light. KW question's what's going on in society... hopefully in a constructive manner. People often don't know that the author is Arab American, so he frequently hears their most candid views of Arabs and the Middle East. Be assured, the author hopes to help accomplish something positive by drawing attention to what he sees as a double standard and bias in American Middle East policies.

Okay, the formalities are over with... lets get down to business!

OM Wolf, Publisher

I don't think it matters who you are; Arab, Israeli, Russian, Chinese, American, British, German, French or any other nationality -- it's wrong to steal countries, however. It's been happening since time immemorial, were constantly killing each other over prime real estate.

Let's establish something right from the start, I am going to be critical of neocons, the Israeli government and others... if you'd think that that automatically makes me anti-Semitic you might as well throw this in the garbage right now. I can declare all over the place, that I have nothing against particular groups or populations as individuals -- only problems with their broader agendas... but that's unlikely to be accepted by most. I don't think that any "peoples" are the spawn of the devil, evil, etc. -- I think we are all equally loved by God. And maybe, just maybe we can live together in peace -- meanwhile, as long as I have breath. I will be complaining about various policies and agendas and expect that you will as well.

The "fact" that most soldiers identify themselves with the neocons, or at least with the Republicans, infers to me that; they are dummies which I don't believe, they are loyal to a fault (which I believe is possible) or that they identify and agree with the neocon ideology. Why else, would they enthusiastically follow chicken hawks, like; Bush, Cheney and Limbaugh -- and be so critical of Murtha, Max and others who have sacrificed blood and their very limbs for their principles?

Terrorism will no more go away then will the drug problem. If your only solution is to attack it with violence of your own

How can I be enamored of the people around me, when so much of their thoughts and conversation seems to be focused on killing my Arab brothers?

American soldiers might be the best in the world, their well-trained, well-equipped and brave... the only problem -- half the time the government sends them on the wrong "mission."

November 8, 2006, a suicide bomber in Pakistan kills 42 army recruits – a Pakistani man who is interviewed, says why did they kill them? They were just trying to make money and better their family situation... learning war or to improve one's financial situation leads to certain risks, not to mention questionable ethics of the proposition. Why be surprised that when you cooperate with some of the indigenous people will oppose you? Two weeks earlier, in Bajur, Pakistan, 80 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed by a Pakistani air strike, some are attributing instead to a CIA drone.

Iraq, the Middle East -- to some extent, you reap what you sow... karma so to speak. That doesn't mean I think that that holds true all the time, but to discount that all together is probably a mistake... and our president either thought he had God on his side, or he didn't give a damn -- he might have just thought that his military was just too big and strong to be messed with.

I certainly think the Jewish people have a right to exist... but I question whether the Jewish state has the right to exist at the expense and on the land of the Palestinians?

Our troops? I believe they are brave, why else would you volunteer to go into the military? I just think they may be being used, but I don't think they believe that... otherwise they wouldn't enlist.

Glorification of the military, is one of the most blatant yet effective forms of societal peer pressure. We are encouraged to admire the bravery, shiny buttons, metals and bright uniforms... and discouraged from questioning all the killing. All the patriotic talk, and slogans like "strength and honor" mean little more than kill or be killed and shoot the bastard before he shoots you. The sad part is that the poor bastard reshooting is just a work in man like you, both of you are working for the man. And the man doesn't give a rats ass about you... they care only about their agenda and their power.

Is there a domino effect in the Middle East? If we don't get our way in Iraq, to Iran, Syria and others move in? Does it become a huge mess that will have future dangerous repercussions for the USA? Will other "friendly" Muslims countries similarly fall? Will the entire region become a fundamentalist Islamic caliphate? Is the final domino Israel... well one thing's for sure, the USA will never allow Israel to fall... nor will Israel -- and if I'm to believe my fundamentalist friends, nor will God.

Regarding Palestine, you want it to be simply between the occupied and the occupiers. You have advised me that it's none of my business and I should keep my nose out of things if I know what's good for me... well brother, I've got cousins over there.

November 2006, the wives of the deceased Iraqi war vet and a Korean war vet, are lobbying the Defense Department for the right to put a wiccan star on her husband's military tombstones, since that is the religion they identified with. So far, their request has been denied, but it is being reviewed... Will freedom of religion prevail? Or do you have to be one of the major, "genuine" faiths to be recognized.

The neocons have failed, but not completely... they have sown the seeds of the sectarian war. At least in Iraq and possibly throughout the Middle East. As far as they're concerned this is better than nothing... chaos and destabilization is their goal and if they can make a few trillion dollars along the way all the better!

I'm recalling the American sniper, who wrote a book and who was being interviewed on TV. He had something like 60 or a hundred confirmed kills, which was mentioned matter-of-factly or perhaps pride fully. Who are all these people that he's killed... were they terrorists, or just boys from the hood?

You say that I don't know what's going on in Iraq, because I haven't been there so I should keep my mouth shut. Well, you're right that I haven't been there... I don't particularly want to go someplace where I'm uninvited and unwelcome... some of you have no such compunction. I think ordinary lives can be exciting enough, without roaming the world looking for people to shoot... being ordered to do so and getting a paycheck in return does not make it any better. Brothers and sisters beat those swords... or at least hang them on the wall and leave them there until and unless you really need them for self defense.

Just because a man in a gray suit with a red tie, standing behind a podium with an official seal on the front of the and a huge army behind them tells you that you have to do something, doesn't make you right. George W. may eventually learn that he is the head of the government and the armies of heaven are not necessarily at his command.

They are talking about Darfor again, and I see it as a clash between sub-Saharan black Africans and black Arabs from the north. I'm guessing that this fighting has a lot to do with the allocation of scarce arable land. Led by religious groups and celebrities, the West is being encouraged to support the black Africans. Over the black Arabs. It seems that the blacker, you are or the more Christian you are, the more western support, you will receive.

On C-SPAN, the undersecretary of state says he wants the North Koreans to go back to where they were in 2005 and to adhere to those agreements. Number one, it's unlikely that any country will voluntarily go back in time to when they were weaker... number two, what's our track record of honoring our agreements? The American Indians might be able to tell us something about that.

"Bureaucracy – the art of making the possible in possible."... unknown

Will our modern Roman roads (the interstate highway system) last forever? Our motors need fossil fuels to run, at least until we find something else to power them... so get your motors run and head out on the highway. Fire all your guns at once and explode into space.

I like my neighbors and acquaintances fine, until the subject of the middle east comes up -- which these days it regularly does. That's when they sometimes start talking about how we just need to kill more Arabs solve problems in the Middle East... in some cases, it seems to be quite personal, and they have an intense hatred of Arabs. In other cases it seems less personal but the consequences of their desired foreign policy is just as dire for the Arab people. I don't know how many times over the years I've heard things like, " we should just nuke the whole area... why should those \$^&#%@\$ how all that oil, they don't deserve it and Americans discovered it for them." Another one I hear repeatedly is, "we just need to kill more of them"... my friends inform me that that's how you win a war. That's how you end it. You utterly defeat and subjugate the other side -- nothing personal, I suppose. It's the same old football game mentality, with a dose of religion thrown in for good measure.

There I am, an invisible man, unless I decide to tell them that I am half Egyptian and see things differently. But there is very little upside in that -- I don't think I've ever change anybody's mind but I've probably lost a few friends in the process. That doesn't mean that I'll stop trying to encourage people to think outside the box.

James Baker's panel of 16 experts has just returned from Iraq, with recommendations on how to solve the problems and get us out of that quagmire.. It would be no surprise, if they determined that we just need to kill more people... after all. That's what my friends have been recommending for years.

Others are saying let's just kill Muqtada Al Sadr and to deal with the consequences... after all, he is causing us a lot of problems. It looks like we will never learn, never address the root causes (Palestine), and never consider adjusting our foreign policy to be more evenhanded. We are joined at the hip and heart with Israel – which is no surprise, since we are among the most fundamentalist of "Christian" nation's and despite the fact that the founding fathers probably never had this in mind, we are unlikely to ever change at this point. Time will tell, what

fruit will spring from the seeds that we have some – and whether or not America is all powerful and all-knowing.

Whether or not, Harry Truman received grocery bags full of cash, and whether or not, that influenced him to order us to change our vote on the establishment of the State of Israel we may never know. One thing I believe is that the vote our ambassador cast that day, will go down in history as changing the destiny of America and the world. Whether or not, there were grocery bags full of cash, we may never know, but as with any vote, there is first a campaign in campaigns are inevitable he influenced and fueled by money

Giving half of Palestine to the Zionists, is another example of democracy running amok and tyranny of the majority.

Israel is the ultimate sacred cow, Americans who criticize it or verbally attack its policies are marginalized, crushed or at the very least ignored.

Jimmy Carter's new book called apartheid in Palestine sounds interesting... and considerably less biased than most of what is available to read. He's making the rounds, and it will be interesting to see if he makes it to the Fox network. He says that 200 Israeli settlements have been erected in the occupied West Bank territory -- which he says is a violation of UN resolutions. The settlements are connected to each other via highways that only Israelis can use. It also cuts off Palestinian villages from each other, since in some cases they cannot even cross these roads.

The Palestinian problem is about religion and real estate... I wonder if Darfur is to some extent also? In any case, terrorism, rape and oppression of people on either side is counterproductive. The United Nations would like to move into Darfur, I can see why this Sudanese don't want them to... all they have to do is look to the north. And they might notice that the UN gave most of Palestine away.

Is it unpatriotic or sacrilegious to say that you believe God values Iraqi lives as much as Americans?

Revise photograph file for opus and make one for WWJ be... put them on CDs, load Roxio on to notebook if necessary

Sand nigger, towel head, rag head, f---ing Arab, Arab mother f---er... I've heard my share of epitaphs, but I have never had the nerve to react violently. I've always remained silent during the more obscene tirades and during the milder ones, on occasion, I've told the person that I am half Egyptian. When the tirade is extreme I've felt that telling them my ethnicity will just make them madder to possibly embarrassed... when the tirade is relatively mild, I have spoken up as a form of damage control, so maybe they won't say anything worse. I dismay me more than

angers me and I guess I'm not ballsy enough to kick anyone's ass over these insults anyway.

Civil war in Iraq, wider regional war between the Sunnis and Shiites... I kind of get the idea that the average American could care less as long as it's Arabs killing Arabs. Also get the idea that some Americans are all for such civil or regional war between Muslims... it suits their purposes ideally. Divide and conquer has long been the Western way... this way, the "opposition" cannot mount an effective defense against the resource ratters from the West -- in this case were looking for oil.

We need super human, if not supernatural help to solve problems like the middle east... but the parties involved are so biased that even normal human effort doesn't work. So how can we expect a success and negotiation

Regarding the Iraq war, one pundit said, "I didn't have much confidence in the operation because I knew who the surgeon was."

I'm trying not to think of anyone as enemies, only adversaries... that way we are not quite as hardened in our approach to dealing with them.

It the Arabs and the Israelis are ever going to live together in peace, they have to work out solutions to their problems... constant Israeli occupation and appropriation of more and more Palestinian land, just makes matters worse. Of course the Israelis have security issues to be concerned about -- but building this huge wall on Palestinian land, sure doesn't help. The Palestinians have security concerns as well... their concern, is that Israel has "secured" most of their country.

You say, stop complaining unless you have some ideas about what should the US do in the middle east? Well, I didn't get us into this mess, but I would suggest adapting a policy that is unbiased vis a vis Palestine, instead of our current one which is utterly and entirely biased. The best chance the US has for brokering a mid east peace, which from time to time our leaders claim to want to do, is to be completely unbiased. Unfortunately such a shift in policy seems impossible... despite the fact that this not a ball game, but deadly serious business and millions of lives may be at stake. Put this at the end of opus and get rid of "continued"

I'm listening to the senators interviewing Robert Gates at the hearings for him to replace Donald Rumsfeld as Sec. of Defense. It's interesting how they're all on the same page and in my opinion, so tragically wrong in their assessment of what needs to be done in the Middle East. What becomes apparent almost immediately, is that our leaders are still as determined as ever to get their way in the Middle East, subjugate the Arabs and Muslims and support Zionism, no matter what.

America is using a "measured" approach for the war in Iraq... no nukes or carpet bombing of cities... I suppose that's a "good" thing. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to be working very well... lets hope GW and his pals don't get more enthusiastic.

No matter how much lipstick the president tries to put on this pig he calls Iraq, she'll never be a beauty queen. While we are there, nor will she fly.

If we embrace the current administration's agenda with enough fervor, we are called patriot, if not, we are called un-American or traitorous. That's a damn shame the administration proclaims its values, implying that they are the best values in the world. I think there are much better values than his... in fact, I think there are better values, then "American" values -- certain Christian values come immediately to mind as do some others.

Jimmy Carter is being hammered for his new book called apartheid in Palestine -- the neocons are making one heck of an effort to discredit him... for why are they bothering nobody would listen anyway!

The headlines say, Tony Blair to help organize peace talks... this translates as meaning Tony Blair to facilitate surrender of Palestinians -- because that is the only peace that Britain and the US are interested in...

The huge defense contractor' sounds so friendly and benign as they highlight all their technologies which are helping to keep us safe... I notice, they show very little of the destruction and death their gadgets are inflicting on innocent men, women and children.

The new Secretary of Defense was sworn in today and forthright, he said we are not winning in Iraq... Rummy was reluctant to admit this, but Gates can now start the purge. On the other hand, Gates still seems to be a neocon and determined to crush

the Arabs and Persians. My friends and neighbors are also in that camp... kill more of them is their incessant refrain. I *think* they'd rather not kill women and children, that's not very *Christian*, but when the rubber meets the road, they are quite willing to accept as many civilian casualties as "necessary" in order to get their way, "secure" the middle east and "achieve a positive outcome!."

When you show up alone and uninvited in a conflict ridden land... your either brave or crazy... When your army shows up under similar circumstances... their motives are usually also questionable.

What ever happened to the ubiquitous ex-colonels, ex-generals etc. who called themselves "military analysts" and appeared all over cable news channels? They were full of shit, and hopefully the unrepentant bastards have gone down the drain where shit's supposed to go.

Funny how we're accusing the Iraqi government with "packing" their officer corp with men of a particular religion... well it's probably true... but what about us... what percentage of our officer corp is anything but Christian... maybe a few Jewish officers... but hardly anything else.

Mrs. Clinton says security's our number one concern, because unfortunately there are people around the world "plotting against us." I would argue that the chicken came before this egg and the fowl was us plotting and meddling in their hemisphere, long before they began meddling in ours... Hillary.

There are two kinds of female "leaders" that come to mind... there's the type that act like men... such as Margaret and Golda, who can push the kill button as "well" as any man and there's the kind of female leaders who are intent on a nanny state... I care for neither type any more than I care for the good old boy SOBs.

GW may be your king, but he's not mine.

Those darn Arabs... not voluntarily submitting to your will and giving up their land and oil... those wiley wascals... they remind me of those pesky Indians.

"The colonel" is being interviewed on CNN and it becomes clear to me that the neocons have far from given up. The "problems" in Iraq are at the most a temporary setback and possibly even an opportunity! What's so bad, from their perspective, with a civil war in Iraq, or even a regional war between Shiites and Sunnis? Heck, it's better than having the Sunnis and Shiites united isn't it? If they're fighting each other, they can still "harass" Israel, but probably not as effectively... nor would they be as likely to be able to repel any western attempts to "secure" the oil fields. If oil hits \$ 300 for a period of time, it would certainly be the Muslims fault and a convenient rallying point for the neocons. If they have to turn the middle east, sans Israel into a sea of glass – they'll just say a prayer for the poor damned heathens and push the button... so be it... These guys are masters at turning lemons into lemonade.

The Palestinian Diaspora and the Israeli occupation of Palestine has been something of a holocaust. It certainly hasn't cost as many lives... but it's damaged about as many and in both cases, Jewish holocaust and Palestinian "holocaust", neither side deserved the brutal treatment their "overlords" subjected them to.

When they talk about war, sometimes they use the expression "in theater" it's like their making movies instead of blowing people up. Recently there's been a lot of talk about having a surge of troops... their lingo is pretty crazy.

Iraqis are as "real" as Americans... you were shooting them like fish in a barrel and stomping on them like ants. These are real people with real; lives, hopes and dreams -- exactly like us.

About the Author

Ken O. Eldib was born in Elizabeth, NJ in the 1950s and grew up within sight of the World Trade Center. His father who was born in Egypt, came to the US on a scholarship at the age of 21 where he earned a PhD in engineering.

Ken's mother is from the heartland and traces her family back to men who fought in the Revolutionary War, as well as to steadfast pioneer women.

Growing up, Ken considered himself "all American" and doesn't recall the words "Arab American" coming together for him until his college years, when negative Arab stereotypes became widespread. Prior to then he says, "I would never have considered myself a 'hyphenated' American. “

Ken has been to Egypt several times and remains in touch with relatives in the "old country." He has written several books, including Marriage Vows 2000 and WWJB? which focuses on religion and spirituality.

